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COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTH SHIELDS



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1958

I. D. LEITCH,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



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PREFACE

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health
and Health Services Committees.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the borough and an account of the activities of the public health department for the year 1958.

The first Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health of South Shields was rendered for the year 1875 and has been published annually with the exception of some of the war years. The present Report is the 84th, and the seventh in the present series.

Of the vital statistics for 1958, there were 2,078 net registered births, a slight decrease from 1957, and the birth rate was 19.1, as compared with 16.4 for the country generally. There was a marked fall in the number of still-births to 35, from 57, in 1957, giving a still-birth rate of 16.56, the lowest for several years. Deaths of infants under twelve months changed little from the previous year and numbered 49, giving an infant mortality rate of 23.6 per 1,000 births. The national rate was 22.5. The general death rate for the town was 12.2 as compared with 11.8 in 1957, and 11.7 for the country generally. Of the chief causes of death there was little change in the relative proportions, heart and circulatory diseases being the highest, followed by the cancers and then cerebral vascular diseases. Although there was a fall in the deaths from bronchitis and an increase in deaths due to violence and accident, bronchitis, pneumonia and deaths due to violence have remained in that order the next three major causes of death.

Apart from a slight rise in the number of cases of whooping cough notified and a fall in the number of known and confirmed cases of dysentery, there were few noticeable trends in the incidence of infectious disease. The moderately increased prevalence of whooping cough occurred at the latter end of the year and the increased numbers were mainly of children from 5 to 10 years. 20 years ago one would have expected a much more extensive outbreak but with the fairly large proportion of children who are now protected with whooping cough vaccine, the disease certainly appears to be held in check and its effects in the individual cases less severe.

Some concern is felt at the level of unemployment in the town, the latest available figures i.e. for 1957 being shown on page 10. From these, it can be seen that there was more than a 50% increase in the numbers as compared with the previous year. This high trend appears to have continued in 1958 and it is already pointed out that there will be an increasing scarcity of jobs for young people

leaving school. The immediate and long term effects on the health and well-being of the community cannot be ignored. Even now the number of persons who travel to work outside the town—a considerable distance in some cases—is probably a large one and this added burden of daily travelling is a factor which is generally adverse to good health.

The domiciliary midwives to whom much credit is due had a very busy year due to an increase in the number of home confinements. In fact 63% (1,325) of all the confinements took place at home, and at times during the year the midwives were overworked. South Shields fortunately is used to the situation of a high domiciliary confinement rate although in the earlier part of the year, the shortage of hospital beds in the area became so acute that it was difficult to find a bed for even the abnormal midwifery case. In addition to a large number of home confinements the midwives also had the responsibility of giving attention to 688 patients who had been discharged from hospital before the fourteenth day. There was some difficulty towards the end of the year in maintaining the nominal establishment of midwives and several part-time midwives were engaged with the main intention of relieving the full-time staff of routine nursings.

I would refer to the work done in the department in 1958, in connection with the poliomyelitis vaccination scheme, full details of which are given on page 75. As in most health departments throughout the country, polio vaccination entailed a burden of extra work for the staff. The result however had made the effort well worth while for by the end of the year 56.97% of children under 5, 81.37% of children aged 5 to 14, and 10% of those aged 15 to 25 had at least received one injection of the vaccine. It would be impossible to discuss the innumerable and varied problems which appeared in connection with the scheme but I would only add that they were dealt with as they arose. As far as the department itself was concerned, the scheme might be described as a strenuous but successful exercise in teamwork, co-operation and flexibility. The great public interest aroused, was an advantage from most aspects and above all helped to achieve a good response.

Other schemes of preventive inoculation were continued although there was an inevitable fall in diphtheria inoculations. In all, a total of 62,186 preventive inoculations of all kinds was given in 1958 as compared with 10,946 in 1957, a six-fold increase. The medical responsibility entailed in administering an inoculation may appear slight but with such a large number being given I feel that credit is due to all sections of the staff for the care taken to achieve—

as indeed was the case—complete freedom from any serious reactions.

The question of recruitment and training of professional staff becomes a major preoccupation year by year. The problem of recruitment to meet immediate needs was most acutely felt during the year with regard to dentists, public health inspectors and to some extent midwives. The position is similar in the fields of certain ancillary professions, e.g. speech therapists and almoners. In the mental health services it is impossible to find qualified staff, although in this section of the department, efforts have been made to give in-service training as far as possible with the assistance of the National Association for Mental Health. As new services and some new concepts are introduced into the work of a health department, the problem of meeting staff requirements in the future is very complex indeed.

During the year, we had the resignation of Mr. J. Walton as Principal School Dental Officer, Mrs. E. P. White, Matron of the day nurseries since their commencement in 1943 and the retirement through ill-health of Mr. C. J. Stock part-time Borough Analyst for many years. I am grateful to all of them for their devoted service.

To conclude, I would like to thank the Chairmen and Members of the Committees for their support and encouragement. My thanks are also due to the individuals and other agencies, too numerous to mention individually who by their co-operation with the department helped to make its work more effective. To all the members of my staff, I express my sincere gratitude for their loyal service during the year.

I. D. LEITCH,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

AUGUST, 1959.

*Public Health Department,
Stanhope Parade,
South Shields.*

**Chairmen of Committees.
at 31st December, 1958.**

<i>Public Health Committee</i>	Alderman W. P. McANANY, J.P.
<i>Health Services Committee</i>	Alderman W. P. McANANY, J.P.
<i>Mental Health Services</i>	
<i>Sub-Committee</i>	Alderman W. P. McANANY, J.P.
<i>Slaughterhouses Sub-Committee</i>	Councillor J. A. CLARK.
<i>Maternity and Child Welfare</i>	
<i>Sub-Committee</i>	Alderman MARGARET E. SUTTON, J.P.
<i>Education Committee</i>	Alderman MARGARET E. SUTTON, J.P.
<i>Education Welfare Sub-</i>	
<i>Committee</i>	Councillor ROSE A. HART.
<i>Housing Committee</i>	Alderman T. W. PEEL, J.P.
<i>Town Improvement Committee</i>	Alderman J. F. RICHARDSON.
<i>Welfare Committee</i>	Councillor ROSE A. HART.
<i>Children Committee</i>	Alderman L. GLOVER, J.P.

Staff of Public Health Department.

Post or Appointment	Name	Qualifications
Medical Officer of Health. Chief Tuberculosis Officer, Principal School Medical Officer.	I. D. LEITCH.	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy School Medical Officer	VACANT	
Chest Physician	O. W. MARIENFELD*	M.D., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.G., D.P.H.
School Medical Officers	H. LEVY	M.B., B.S.
Assistant Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Welfare and School Health Service)	ANNIE K. WATTIE D. T. JAMES K. A. SWALES	M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. B.Sc. M.B., B.Ch. M.B., Ch.B.
Assistant Medical Officer (Maternity and Child Welfare).	JEAN WALMSLEY	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Post or Appointment	Name	Qualifications
Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon (School Health Service)	P. MACMURRAY*	M.B., D.L.O.
Physiotherapist Principal School Dental Officer	MISS R. HENDERSON	
	J. G. WALTON (Left 18/1/58)	B.D.S.
	K. SISSONS (Comm. 21/4/58)	L.D.S.
School Dental Surgeons	A. C. K. BARNES (Left 3/5/58)	B.D.S.
	J. McKELVEY*	B.D.S.
	J. P. BLUNT* (Commenced 11/5/58)	L.D.S.
Dental Surgeon (Mat. & Child Welfare, etc.)	MRS. E. MAKEPEACE* (Left 31/10/58)	L.D.S.
Anaesthetist	DR. L. L. THERON* (Left 7/5/58)	L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.P.F.P.S., D.A.
	DR. E. O'NEIL* (Commenced 14/5/58)	L.R.C.P.I., L.M., L.R.C.S.I.
Almoner	MISS D. WATSON (Left 30/4/58)	B.A., A.M.I.A.
Borough Analyst	W. GORDON-CAREY* (Commenced 16/6/58)	F.R.I.C.
Chief Public Health Inspector	R. V. ROBINSON	1, 2, 6, 7
Deputy-Chief Public Health Inspector	J. SMITH (Commenced 1/5/58)	1, 2, 7
Senior Public Health Inspectors	J. McVAY	1, 2
	R. COPELAND	1, 2, 7
	T. McCOWIE	1, 2, 7
	J. R. WILSON (Commenced 10/11/58)	1, 2, 7
	N. ROBINSON (Left 30/8/58)	1, 2, 7
Public Health Inspectors	R. C. STUTTLE (Left 11/5/58)	1, 2
	J. SOMERVILLE	2, 8
	S. TEASDALE	1, 2
	L. McCOWEY (Left 23/11/58)	1, 2
	R. H. ALDUS	
	M. J. W. GIBLIN	
Student Public Health Inspectors	R. GARDENER	

* Part-time, also in Consultant or Private Practice.

Post or Appointment	Name	Qualifications
Inspector under the Shops Act	J. R. KELSO	
Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives	MRS. S. A. INNES	3, 4
Domiciliary Midwives	20 (including 3 part-time)	
Matron, Midwifery Part II Training School	Miss E. Robinson	3, 4
Matron, Day Nurseries	MRS. E. P. WHITE (Retired 23/11/58)	4
	Miss I. L. FIFE (Commenced 24/11/58)	3, 4
Superintendent Health Visitor	Miss E. MYCOCK	3, 4, 5
Health Visitors	Miss C. W. EVERSON	3, 4, 5
	Miss M. SHERRY	3, 4, 5
	MRS. P. STEWART	3, 4, 5
	MRS. B. HEAVISIDES	3, 4, 5
	Miss S. E. G. WHITFIELD	3, 4, 5
	Miss M. V. INGOE	3, 4, 5
	Miss E. N. JOPLING	3, 4, 5
	Miss J. ARNOLD	3, 4, 5
	Miss J. J. McDONALD	3, 4, 5
	MRS. I. CALLENDER	3, 4, 5
	Miss C. FORD	3, 4, 5
	Miss N. WARD (Left 5/7/58)	4, 5
	MRS. O. GRAHAM (Left 30/4/58)	3, 4, 5
	Miss J. C. CLARKE	3, 4, 5
	Miss E. J. HOLT (Appointed 3/7/58)	4, 5
Student Health Visitor	Miss N. ERICKSON (Transferred 15/9/58)	4
School Nurses	MRS. D. MCPHEE	4
	MRS. E. HAYDEN	4
	MRS. J. JOHNSON	3, 4
	MRS. M. M. BAIN	4
Chief Administrative Clerk	C. HYMERS	1, 2
Senior Administrative Clerk	J. HILTON	1
Assistant Administrative Clerk	W. JOHNSON	

Post or Appointment	Name	Qualifications
Clerks	A. T. LAWSON, L. SNAPE MISS E. PARK MISS J. TINMOUTH MRS. M. BADGER MISS O. SNAITH MISS N. HARDWICK MISS B. G. TINDLE MISS F. H. MCKAY MISS M. GASCOIGNE MISS D. BURNETT (Left 20/12/58) N. DUNCAN MRS. F. BORTHWICK MRS. M. P. NEVILLE MRS. E. FORD G. B. STEPHENSON N. CHAMLEY MRS. D. M. GIBBONS MRS. D. A. STRATFORD MISS H. BROWN	
Mental Health Service : (Duly Authorised Officers)	R. M. HUDSON W. SCOTT D. J. JOHNSTON	
Occupation Centre : Supervisor Assistant Supervisors	MRS. I. HOULT MRS. I. C. HESKETH MISS J. AITCHISON (Commenced 14/7/58)	
Dental Assistants, School Health Service	MISS O. DEAKIN MISS J. A. LANDRETH	
Clinic Attendant	MRS. A. M. WHEATLEY	
Ambulance Superintendent Ambulance Drivers (25) Telephone Attendant (1)	W. S. BOHILL	
Supervisor of Domestic Helps	MRS. A. C. THOMPSON	
Assistant Supervisor of Domestic Helps	MISS M. CLARKE	

Post or Appointment	Name	Qualifications
Domestic Helps : (3 Full-time, 178 Part-time)	No. on 1st Jan, 1958 148 No. appointed during year—114 No. resigned during year—81 No. on staff 31st December, 1958—181	
Rodent Operators (2) Van Driver (1)		

1. *Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Board (now Royal Institute of Public Health).*
2. *Meat and Other Foods Certificate (R.S.I.).*
3. *State Certified Midwife.*
4. *State Registered Nurse.*
5. *Health Visitors Certificate (R.S.I.).*
6. *Certificate in Sanitary Science (R.S.I.).*
7. *Certificate in Smoke Inspection (R.S.I.).*
8. *Certificate of Royal Sanitary Association of Scotland.*

PART I.—STATISTICAL AND GENERAL DATA.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

1. General Statistics.

Acres.

Area of Borough (including inland water but excluding foreshore and tidal water—301 acres)	4,877
Population at Census 1951	106,598
Resident population, Registrar-General's estimate for 1958 (mid-year)	108,600
Density (persons per acre)	22.3
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1958 (according to Rate Books)	36,124
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1958	£997,797
Produce of a penny rate (estimate for 1958-59)	£4,050

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Total Male Female				1957	1958
Live Births :—					
Legitimate	1,983	1,016	967	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	19.5 19.1
Illegitimate	95	48	47		
Birth Rate adjusted by Comparability Factor of 0.93				18.2	17.8
Still Births :—					
Legitimate	34	16	18	} Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still-births)	26.3 16.6
Illegitimate	1	1	.....	
Total Live and Still-births :—					
	2,113	1,081	1,032		
Infant Deaths :—					
	49	32	17		
Infant Mortality Rate (under one year of age) :—					
All infants per 1,000 live births				23.2	23.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				24.0	23.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....				Nil.	21.1
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (first four weeks).....				14.66	19.25
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births				3.36	4.57
Maternal Deaths (excluding one associated with child birth)				Nil	3
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births :					
Puerperal sepsis				—	—
Other puerperal causes				—	1.42
Deaths	1,321	723	598	} Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	11.8 12.2
Death Rate adjusted by Comparability Factor (1.20).....					
				14.0	14.6

	1957	1958
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	248	257
„ „ Measles (all ages).....	—	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2	2
Area comparability factors :—		
Births	0.93	0.93
Deaths	1.19	1.20

3. Social and Economic Conditions.

The principal industries in the borough are shipbuilding, ship-repairing, coal-mining and export. New light industries (electrical and engineering fittings, tailoring, gowns, lingerie, slippers, chemicals and pickles) have now been established for some years and these, in contrast to the heavy industries, provide employment for many women.

UNEMPLOYMENT :—

I am indebted to the Manager of the Employment Exchange, for the latest information available relating to unemployment which is summarised below.

The average numbers on the live registers taken from the monthly returns, were as follows :—

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Men (age 18-64)	1,314	1,074	906	979	1,584
Boys (age 15-17)	48	55	30	30	38
Women (age 18-64)	492	396	233	230	306
Girls (age 15-17)	29	23	18	14	16
Total	1,883	1,548	1,187	1,253	1,944

Of the different groups the percentage of unemployed was as follows :—

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Men (age 18-64)	6	5	4.2	4.5	6.8
Boys (age 15-17)	4	4	2.1	2.6	3.3
Women (age 18-64)	5	4	2.4	2.2	3.0
Girls (age 15-17)	1	1	1.0	0.8	0.9
Total average	5	4	3.4	3.6	5.5

The maximum and minimum numbers of persons unemployed during the year were :—

MAXIMUM.	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Men (age 18-64)	1,820	1,812	1,238	1,263	2,176
Boys (age 15-17)	96	97	63	56	77
Women (age 18-64)	587	514	375	305	392
Girls (age 15-17)	62	31	34	33	42

MINIMUM.	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Men (age 18-64)	794	750	700	740	1,208
Boys (age 15-17)	28	22	8	19	20
Women (age 18-64).....	339	269	127	177	250
Girls (age 15-17)	9	8	6	8	7

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population of the County Borough for 1958, is 108,600, an increase on the previous year of 300. The natural increase—excess of births over deaths—was 757. The population at the 1951 Census was 106,598.

Births.

2,078 babies were registered as belonging to South Shields during 1958, a birth rate of 19.1 per 1,000 of the population, the birth rate for 1957, was 19.5 per 1,000.

The proportion of male to female births was 1,064 males to 1,014 females.

There were 95 illegitimate births or 4.6% of the total births.

There were 35 still births, 17 males and 18 females : 16.6 per 1,000 of all births, live and still.

The birth rate in South Shields as compared with the country generally and neighbouring authorities was as follows :—

	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Still Births.</i>
England and Wales.....	16.4	21.6
<i>South Shields C.B.</i>	19.13	16.56
Gateshead C.B.	18.05	29.3
Sunderland C.B.	20.86	24.0
Newcastle upon Tyne	18.61	21.81
Tynemouth C.B.	17.96	26.81
Durham County	18.6	23.2
Northumberland County	17.08	22.75

Deaths.

There were 1,321 deaths during the year among South Shields residents : males 723, females 598. This is equal to a death rate of 12.2 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with a death rate of 11.8 for 1957. The figure includes 107 deaths of residents who died away from South Shields, but the deaths of 168 non-residents who died in South Shields, mostly in hospitals, are excluded.

The death rate for South Shields as compared with the country generally and neighbouring authorities was as follows :—

England and Wales.....	11.7
<i>South Shields C.B.</i>	12.2
Gateshead C.B.	11.7
Sunderland C.B.	10.9
Newcastle upon Tyne	12.5
Tynemouth C.B.	12.1
Durham County	11.3
Northumberland County	12.1

The death rate for South Shields in the four quarters of the year was as follows :—

1st quarter	15.5
2nd quarter	11.7
3rd quarter	10.3
4th quarter	11.1

Infant Mortality.

There were 49 deaths of infants under one year of age, this represents an infant mortality rate of 23.6 per 1,000 births as compared with 23.2 in 1957. and 22.6 for the country generally.

Maternal Mortality.

Three deaths were recorded as due to pregnancy and parturition, and one associated with pregnancy. the maternal death rate being 1.41 per 1,000 total births.

Zymotic Deaths.

Two deaths occurred from Infantile Diarrhoea, the zymotic rate being 0.02 per 1,000 of the population.

The chief causes of death were as follows :—

	No. of deaths.	Percentage of total.
(a) Arteriosclerotic and Heart diseases	396	30.0
(b) Cancer	257	19.5
(c) Cerebral haemorrhage, Apoplexy etc.	229	17.3
(d) Bronchitis.....	73	5.5
(e) Pneumonia	62	4.7
(f) Violence and accidents	55	4.2
(g) Prematurity and diseases of early infancy	37	2.8
(h) Tuberculosis	18	1.4
(i) Nephritis	10	0.8
(j) Influenza	6	0.5

Average Age at Death (in years)

Year	Males	Females	Overall
1918	32.90	32.61	32.76
1919	34.69	33.66	34.20
1920	32.82	34.84	33.78
1921	37.31	36.89	37.12
1922	36.41	39.01	37.61
1923	35.94	36.25	36.09
1924	35.84	40.65	38.12
1925	35.77	37.36	36.49
1926	39.79	41.15	40.42
1927	40.23	41.05	40.62
1928	41.82	41.12	41.49
1929	39.49	41.38	40.41
1930	42.96	45.94	44.32
1931	39.29	43.19	41.11
1932	46.98	49.06	47.98
1933	43.30	47.71	45.38
1934	45.30	48.00	46.60
1935	48.13	50.06	49.04
1936	48.38	53.41	50.67
1937	48.64	51.20	49.87
1938	50.15	51.88	51.01
1939	52.24	53.33	52.73
1940	51.92	54.23	53.01
1941	50.34	52.05	51.80
1942	51.81	54.37	53.05
1943	52.94	52.81	52.88
1944	55.14	56.52	55.79
1945	55.54	57.40	56.40
1946	53.55	58.78	55.87
1947	56.67	58.30	57.41
1948	58.99	60.39	59.65
1949	58.27	60.98	59.58
1950	60.53	64.40	62.31
1951	61.51	64.53	62.88
1952	60.44	63.58	61.86
1953	61.59	64.94	63.41
1954	60.97	65.53	63.07
1955	63.13	65.65	64.27
1956	64.29	69.15	66.55
1957	64.24	67.77	65.82
1958	64.00	69.53	66.49

The average age of all the registered deaths for each year has been calculated and the table on page 13 shows the steadily rising average age of deaths over the past 41 years.

Many factors contribute to this improvement—notably the reduction of infant mortality, the decrease in infectious diseases generally, the advancement of medical science and better housing conditions resulting in improved hygiene in the homes. It will be observed that females live longer than males (and one factor may be that many of the best lives among males were either lost at sea or in the fighting services whilst comparatively young).

Coroner's Inquests.

Coroner's inquests were held in respect of 71 deaths. In 14 cases, the Coroner ordered a post-mortem examination, but it was found unnecessary to hold inquests. There were 33 deaths which were not certified by a medical practitioner and on whom no inquest or Coroner's post mortem examination was held.

Deaths in Hospitals and other Institutions.

600 deaths or 45.4 per cent. of the total occurred in institutions, exclusive of 163 deaths among non-residents of the Borough. These are detailed in Table 3, page 24.

Cremation.

Forty-eight South Shields residents were cremated at the Newcastle Crematorium, and 318 at the Sunderland Crematorium.

Plans for a Crematorium in the Simonside area of the Borough are now well advanced.

Causes of Death.

The tabulation of deaths given in Table 1, page 16, follows the Abbreviated List in accordance with the Nomenclature Regulations 1948, of the World Health Organisation, and amended by the International Conference held in 1955. This is the seventh revision of the International List and came into force on the 1st January, 1958.

It provides for an international Medical Certificate of Cause of Death and rules for the selection of the *underlying* cause of death, which may be defined as

- (a) the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death, or

- (b) the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury.

The chief purpose of this codification is to secure such uniformity in morbidity and mortality statistics, internationally, as can be achieved for comparisons.

At the request of the Ministry of Health the short list of the causes of deaths as supplied by the Registrar-General is included in the report (Table 1(A), page 19) in order that the relation between the local tabulation (Table 1) and the statistics supplied by the Registrar-General may be compared. There is substantial agreement, but as the Registrar-General points out, the classification of some deaths in respect of which the certifying medical practitioners have given definite causes is modified in the light of further information obtained by him from them by special enquiries; also this Table is of deaths actually registered during the year, while Table I is of deaths taking place; these possible sources of discrepancy should be borne in mind.

TABLE 1.—CAUSES OF DEATHS during 1958 of persons belonging to the County Borough of South Shields, classified according to the Abbreviated International List of Causes (Seventh Revision) as adopted for use in England and Wales. (This list has been abridged by omitting headings against which no deaths have been recorded during the year).

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Sex	All Ages	AGES AT DEATH.																					
			0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+
B 1. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	M.	12	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	..	..
B 2. Tuberculosis, other forms	F.	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
B 3. Syphilis and its sequelae	F.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
B 6. Dysentery	M.	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..
B 10. Meningococcal infections	F.	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
B 17. All other diseases classified as infective and parasitic	F.	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	M.	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
B 18. Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissues	M.	152	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	8	15	24	18	25	26	17	9	6	8
	F.	105	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	5	4	10	9	9	12	20	18	6	8	..
B 19. Benign and unspecified neoplasms	M.	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
B 20. Diabetes mellitus	M.	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
B 21. Anaemias	M.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	2	..	..	..
B 22. Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	M.	106	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	4	6	6	12	17	14	29	13	13
	F.	123	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	7	11	27	32	22	17	17
B 23. Nonmeningococcal meningitis	M.	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
B 24. Rheumatic fever	M.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
B 25. Chronic rheumatic heart disease	M.	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
	F.	8	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	1	1	1	3	..	..	..	..

AGES AT DEATH.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Sex	All Ages	AGES AT DEATH.																						
			0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-	
B 45. Senility without mention of psychosis, ill-defined and unknown causes	M. F.	6 6	1 1	1 ..	1 ..	3 3	3 3
B 46. All other diseases	M. F.	40 35	1 ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	.. ..	1 ..	.. ..	.. 1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. 3	4 1	3 1	6 4	9 6	6 6	3 8	1 6
“ E ” Code. Alternative Classification of Accidents, Poisonings, and Violence (external cause)																									
BE47. Motor vehicle accidents	M. F.	10 4 1 2	3 1	1 4	1 ..	2 1	1 3	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	2 1
BE48. All other accidents	M. F.	20 7	.. 1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	2 ..	1 ..	4 ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. 1	3 ..	1 ..	1 ..	1 1	1 1	3 1	.. 2
BE49. Suicide and self-inflicted injury	M. F.	8 5	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	1 ..	.. 2	.. ..	3 ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	.. ..	1 1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
BE50. Homicide	F.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
“ N ” Code. Alternative Classification of Accidents, Poisonings, and Violence (Nature of Injury).																									
BN47. Fractures, head injuries and internal injuries	M. F.	27 10 1	1	4 ..	5 ..	1 2	3 ..	2 1	1 ..	2 ..	1 ..	1 ..	3 1	2 1	3 1	2 1	.. 1
BN48. Burns	M. F.	1 1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. 1	.. 1
BN49. Effects of poisons	M. F.	5 5	.. 1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	.. ..	1 ..	1 ..	.. ..	.. 2	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	.. ..	.. 1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
BN50. All other injuries	M. F.	5 1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. 1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. 1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
TOTALS	M. F.	725 596	32 17	3 2	..	1	..	2 2	5 3	12 11	26 11	50 24	76 24	75 35	93 61	109 120	90 113	84 86	46 71	..	..	..	..	..
GRAND TOTAL		1321	49	5	..	1	..	2	1	4	8	10	14	10	23	37	74	100	110	154	229	203	170	117	

TABLE 1 (A)—CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTH SHIELDS DURING THE YEAR 1958. (SUPPLIED BY THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL).

CAUSES OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages	AGE GROUPS							
			0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
ALL CAUSES	M. F.	723 598	32 17	3 3	1 2	8 5	33 23	228 95	200 180	218 273
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	M. F.	14 5	..	..	..	1	3	7	2	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	M. F.	.. 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Syphilitic disease	M. F.	3 ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..
4. Diphtheria.....	M. F.	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Whooping Cough	M. F.	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Meningococcal infections	M. F.	.. 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	M. F.	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8. Measles	M. F.	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	M. F.	2 3	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M. F.	26 21	..	1	..	..	..	10	11	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M. F.	49 6	..	..	..	..	1	30	15	3
			..	..	..	..	..	2	2	2

TABLE 1 (A)—CONTINUED.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages	AGE GROUPS							
			0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	F.	19	..	..	..	..	1	9	6	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	F.	15	..	..	..	..	2	8	3	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	72	..	1	..	..	2	24	19	26
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	F.	43	..	..	..	1	2	9	16	15
16. Diabetes	M.	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	F.	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
18. Coronary disease, angina	M.	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1
19. Hypertension with heart disease	F.	103	..	..	..	1	..	16	28	57
20. Other heart disease	M.	124	..	..	..	..	..	13	39	72
21. Other circulatory diseases	F.	126	..	..	..	..	..	65	33	28
22. Influenza	M.	71	..	..	..	..	1	12	31	27
23. Pneumonia	F.	17	..	..	..	..	..	3	8	6
24. Bronchitis	M.	20	..	..	..	..	..	3	7	10
	F.	57	..	..	..	..	1	13	15	28
	M.	97	..	..	..	1	2	6	28	60
	F.	36	..	..	..	..	1	7	13	15
	M.	30	..	..	..	..	2	1	9	18
	F.	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
	M.	4	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
	F.	36	3	..	..	..	2	5	12	14
	M.	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	17
	F.	38	..	..	..	..	..	14	15	9
	M.	26	..	..	..	..	..	9	9	8

TABLE 1 (A)—CONTINUED.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages	AGE GROUPS							
			0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	M.	8	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	2
	F.	7	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	M.	10	..	..	..	..	1	3	5	1
	F.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	M.	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
	F.	4	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	M.	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	1
	F.	7	..	..	..	..	1	3	2	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	M.	9	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	6
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	F.	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
31. Congenital malformations	M.	9	6	1	..	..	..	2	..	..
	F.	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	M.	55	23	1	1	1	2	8	10	9
	F.	38	11	..	..	..	6	6	4	16
33. Motor vehicle accidents	M.	10	..	..	..	..	7	1	..	2
	F.	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
34. All other accidents	M.	21	..	..	..	5	6	5	2	3
	F.	10	..	1	..	..	..	2	1	6
35. Suicide	M.	8	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	..
	F.	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
36. Homicide and operations of war	F.	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..

TABLE 2.—Deaths during 1958 : Seasonal and Ward Distribution.

CAUSES OF DEATH	WARDS										TOTAL								
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Beacon	Bents	Biddick Hall	Brinkburn	Cleadon	Harton		Horsley Hill	Marsden	Rekendyke	Simonside	Tyne Dock	Victoria	Westoe	West Park	Whiteleas
ALL CAUSES { Certified Uncertified	414 33	304 13	273 7	297 5	80 1	117 3	65 2	93 3	107 3	101 3	65 2	68 1	111 1	66 1	91 3	100 ...	102 5	97 3	25 2
B. 1. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	17	6	2	4	1	1	2	2	4	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	1	...
B. 2. Tuberculosis, other forms	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
B. 3. Syphilis and its sequelae	2	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
B. 6. Dysentery	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
B. 10. Meningococcal Infection	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
B. 17. Other diseases classified as infective and parasitic	3	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
B. 18. Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissues	257	59	73	55	24	20	10	13	23	19	12	16	17	17	16	20	23	22	5
B. 19. Benign and unspecified neoplasms	5	1	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	1	...
B. 20. Diabetes mellitus	4	...	1	3	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
B. 21. Anaemias	7	3	3	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	1	...
B. 22. Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	229	85	52	37	13	24	11	21	24	11	11	10	13	10	15	23	18	19	6
B. 23. Meningitis	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
B. 24. Rheumatic fever	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...
B. 25. Chronic rheumatic heart disease	14	2	4	3	5	1	3	1	...	2	2	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
B. 26. Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease	308	107	67	68	21	30	13	21	21	33	20	15	24	13	25	15	28	24	5
B. 27. Other diseases of heart	48	16	10	12	2	1	1	7	4	4	3	3	2	5	4	6	2	3	1
B. 28. Hypertension with heart disease	40	8	11	7	3	3	...	2	2	5	2	2	2	2	4	5	7	...	1
B. 29. Hypertension without mention of heart	7	2	2	1	2	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
B. 30. Influenza	6	4	...	2	2	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE 2.—Deaths during 1958 : Seasonal and Ward Distribution.—Continued.

CAUSES OF DEATH	WARD																			
	TOTAL	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Beacon	Bents	Biddick Hall	Brinkburn	Cleaton	Harton	Horsley Hill	Marsden	Rekendyke	Simonside	Tyne Dock	Victoria	Westoe	West Park	Whiteleas
B. 31. Pneumonia...	62	26	17	8	11	3	10	5	5	5	3	3	3	7	...	5	7	3	3	...
B. 32. Bronchitis ...	73	36	7	9	21	5	4	7	3	5	5	2	3	8	4	8	8	4	4	3
B. 33. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	9	5	2	...	2	1	2	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...
B. 34. Appendicitis ...	5	2	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
B. 35. Intestinal obstruction and hernia	6	1	1	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
B. 36. Gastritis, duodenitis, enteritis and colitis except diarrhoea of the newborn	3	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
B. 38. Nephritis and nephrosis...	10	2	1	4	3	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	1
B. 39. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	8	1	2	4	1	...	3	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
B. 40. Deliveries and complications of pregnancy	3	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
B. 41. Congenital malformations ...	12	4	4	1	3	...	1	...	...	...	3	1	4	...	1	1	1	...	1	...
B. 42. Birth injuries, postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis	10	2	3	1	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	1	1	1	...	...
B. 43. Infections of the newborn	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
B. 44. Other diseases peculiar to early infancy and immaturity unqualified	22	7	7	3	5	...	...	5	...	...	1	2	2	4	2	2	2	1	...	1
B. 45. Senility without mention of psychosis, ill-defined and unknown causes	12	3	4	2	3	...	...	1	2	1	1	1	...	3	...	...	1	...	2	...
B. 46. All other diseases...	75	20	25	17	13	2	5	3	6	7	8	...	2	11	5	3	6	6	10	1
BE. 47. Motor vehicle accidents ...	14	3	7	1	3	1	1	...	1	3	...	2	1	1	...	...	1	2	1	...
BE. 48. All other accidents ...	27	11	...	8	8	...	4	2	2	4	...	2	1	4	...	2	1	1	3	1
BE. 49. Suicide and self inflicted injury ...	13	...	5	4	4	...	2	...	1	...	2	...	1	3	...	1	...	1	2	...
BE. 50. Homicide ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	1321	422	317	280	302	81	120	67	96	110	104	67	69	112	67	94	100	107	100	27

TABLE 3.—Deaths during 1958 in Institutions and Transferable Deaths.

INSTITUTIONS	Deaths in Institutions in the Borough		Deaths of South Shields Residents in Institutions outside of the Borough	Transferable Deaths	
	Residents	Non-Residents		Residents	Non-Residents
General Hospital	324	116	..	..	116
Ingham Infirmary	143	42	..	..	42
Deans Hospital	45	5	..	..	5
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead .....	..	..	4	4	..
General Hospital, Newcastle ..	..	..	16	16	..
Shotley Bridge Hospital .....	..	..	9	9	..
Hebburn Hospital .....	..	..	12	12	..
Palmer Memorial Hospital, Jarrow .....	..	..	7	7	..
R.V.I., Newcastle .....	..	..	5	5	..
Primrose Hill Hospital, Jarrow .....	..	..	11	11	..
Other Hospitals .....	..	..	24	24	..
Private addresses .....	..	..	..	8	3
Other places .....	..	..	..	11	2
TOTAL	512	163	88	107	168

**TABLE 4—POPULATION, BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR
1939–58**

Year	Popula- tion esti- mated to middle of each year	Births			Total deaths registered in the Borough		Transfer- able Deaths		Net deaths belonging to the Borough			
		Uncor- rected Num- ber	Net				Of Non-Residents Registered in the Borough	Of Residents not Registered in the Borough	Under 1 year of age		At all ages	
			Num- ber	Rate	Num- ber	Rate			Num- ber	Rate per 1,000 Net Births	Num- ber	Rate
1939	†106,900	1,834	1,834	16.7	1,594	14.9	224	58	120	66	1,428	13.4
1940	99,550	1,843	1,714	17.2	1,676	16.8	237	91	126	74	1,530	15.4
1941	92,910	1,732	1,597	17.2	1,793	19.3	229	109	146	91	1,673	18.0
1942	89,480	1,712	1,590	17.8	1,492	16.7	223	63	126	79	1,332	14.9
1943	86,130	1,822	1,696	19.7	1,622	18.8	221	68	127	75	1,459	16.9
1944	91,040	2,184	2,058	22.6	1,436	15.8	189	59	104	51	1,306	14.3
1945	93,680	2,008	1,882	20.1	1,482	15.8	195	64	131	70	1,351	14.4
1946	100,360	2,257	2,206	22.0	1,464	14.6	168	48	145	66	1,344	13.4
1947	101,780	2,434	2,441	24.0	1,458	14.3	147	53	118	48	1,364	13.4
1948	106,800	2,106	2,113	19.8	1,373	12.9	137	59	89	42	1,295	12.1
1949	108,360	2,120	2,127	19.6	1,479	13.6	141	64	97	46	1,402	12.9
1950	109,400	2,026	2,015	18.4	1,494	13.7	143	61	75	37	1,412	12.9
1951	† 106,670	1,897	1,933	18.1	1,413	13.2	128	78	76	39	1,363	12.8
1952	107,100	2,024	2,007	18.7	1,340	12.5	146	74	77	38	1,268	11.8
1953	107,300	1,996	1,995	18.6	1,301	12.1	142	67	59	30	1,226	11.4
1954	107,500	2,029	2,041	19.0	1,348	12.5	184	46	65	32	1,210	11.3
1955	107,800	1,960	1,955	18.1	1,322	12.3	168	82	66	34	1,236	11.5
1956	108,100	1,956	1,935	17.9	1,290	11.9	153	74	40	21	1,211	11.2
1957	108,300	2,074	2,114	19.5	1,356	12.5	169	88	49	23	1,275	11.8
1958	108,600	2,065	2,078	19.1	1,382	12.7	168	107	49	24	1,321	12.2

NOTES.—(a) The rates in Columns 5, 7, and 13 are calculated per 1,000 of the population.

(b) “Transferable Deaths” are deaths of persons who, having a fixed or usual residence in England or Wales, died in a district other than that in which they resided.

†The population for the calculation of the birth rate for 1939 as given by the Registrar-General was 110,000.

‡Modified estimate for calculation of rates, as Borough was extended on 1st April, 1951 (mid-year estimate for extended Borough. 106,800).

TABLE 5.—BIRTH-RATES, INFANT MORTALITY RATES, AND DEATH RATES FROM VARIOUS CAUSES 1871-1958.

YEAR	Estimated Population	Birth-rate	Death-rate	PRINCIPAL EPIDEMIC DISEASES								Tuberculosis of other organs	Cancer	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Influenza	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 births
				Total	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	* Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	" Fever "	† Diarrhoea	Respiratory Tuberculosis					
Mean 1871-1880	50,580	43.1	25.5	6.00	.86	.42	1.44	.12	.78	.79	1.59	1.91	...	...	...	...	164
Mean 1881-1890	66,520	38.8	20.5	2.32	.01	.34	.45	.10	.44	.19	.78	1.84	...	...	...	...	140
Mean 1891-1900	87,022	36.1	20.1	2.45	.00	.44	.22	.11	.46	.28	.93	1.60	.63	2.00	1.47	.29	166
Mean 1901-1910	104,186	33.9	18.0	2.03	.02	.45	.17	.16	.47	.10	.66	1.50	.72	1.41	1.28	.25	140
Mean 1911-1920	109,843	28.9	18.1	1.47	.00	.38	.09	.09	.26	.04	.61	1.53	.90	1.72	1.67	.84	126
Mean 1921-1930	122,170	23.2	14.0	0.79	.00	.19	.03	.08	.19	.01	.29	1.33	1.09	1.15	1.17	.52	99
Mean 1931-1940	110,635	17.7	13.7	0.55	...	.12	.03	.17	.08	...	.14	1.12	1.44	0.82	0.77	.36	81
Mean 1941-1950	97,994	20.1	14.3	0.27	...	.03	.00	.09	.03	...	.12	0.92	1.92	0.84	0.70	.24	60
1951	106,670	18.1	12.8	0.04	...	.02	...	...	...	...	.02	0.35	2.18	0.95	0.56	.32	39.0
1952	107,100	18.7	11.8	0.06	...	.03	...	...	.01	...	.02	0.59	2.19	0.82	0.67	.05	38.0
1953	107,300	18.6	11.4	0.04	...	.01	...	...	.01	...	.02	0.30	2.11	0.80	0.50	.16	29.6
1954	107,500	19.0	11.3	0.03	...	.01	...	...	...	...	.02	0.32	1.93	0.65	0.53	.10	31.8
1955	107,800	18.1	11.5	0.02	...	...	...	...	...	...	.02	0.20	2.27	0.77	0.58	.04	33.8
1956	108,100	17.9	11.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.17	2.20	0.81	0.55	.04	20.7
1957	108,300	19.5	11.8	0.02	...	...	...	...	...	...	.02	0.17	2.29	0.87	0.44	.09	23.2
1958	108,600	19.1	12.2	0.02	...	...	...	...	...	...	.02	0.16	2.37	0.67	0.57	.06	23.6

* Since 1891, Membranous Group has been included under Diphtheria. † Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years of age) since 1905.

CANCER

During 1958 there were 257 deaths from cancer as compared with 248 in 1957. 152 of the deaths occurred among males and 105 among females. There were 56 deaths from cancer of the respiratory system. The cancer death rate was 2.37 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 2.12 for England and Wales. Cancer accounted for 19.5 per cent. of the total deaths in the Borough, and 99 of the deaths occurred in hospitals.

The following table shows the numbers of cancer deaths in South Shields in 1958 analysed according to sex and to the site affected.

<i>Code.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
141. Tongue	2	.....	2
144. Other parts of mouth and mouth (unspecified)	2	.....	2
148. Pharynx, unspecified	1	.....	1
150. Oesophagus	2	.....	2
151. Stomach	27	20	47
153. Large intestine, except rectum	10	12	22
154. Rectum	12	9	21
155. Biliary passages and liver (primary)	2	3	5
156. Liver (secondary and unspecified) .....	.....	2	2
157. Pancreas	5	5	10
158. Peritoneum	1	.....	1
160. Nose	1	.....	1
162. Trachea, and bronchus and lung (primary)	31	5	36
163. Lung and bronchus (unspecified)	19	1	20
170. Breast.....	.....	18	18
171. Cervix uteri .....	.....	10	10
174. Uterus, unspecified .....	.....	5	5
175. Ovary, Fallopian tube, and broad ligament .....	.....	2	2
176. Vagina or vulva .....	.....	2	2
177. Prostate	13	.....	13
180. Kidney	2	.....	2

<i>Code.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
181. Bladder and other urinary organs	7	2	9
191. Skin (other)	1	.....	1
193. Brain and other parts of nervous system	3	2	5
196. Bone (including jaw bone) .....	.....	2	2
199. Other and unspecified sites	1	.....	1
200. Lymphosarcoma and reticulo-sarcoma	2	3	5
201. Hodgkin's disease	4	1	5
204. Leukaemia and aleukaemia	4	1	5
<hr/>			
TOTAL	152	105	257
<hr/> <hr/>			

Deaths from cancer have shown a progressive increase during the last twenty years, particularly from cancer of the lungs and pleura. Contributory causes are at present being investigated.

The distribution, percentage of total deaths and percentage of deaths 35 years and upwards (i.e. the age usually affected) since 1939 is given in the following table.

CANCER DEATHS, 1939 to 1958.

Situation	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Buccal cavity and pharynx	10	7	8	6	4	6	4	6	8	6	6	2	5	10	4	3	9	1	5	5
Digestive organs and peritoneum	122	103	92	75	106	110	127	112	115	106	107	100	112	98	100	94	100	105	121	110
Respiratory system ..	15	7	9	19	12	10	14	24	30	31	33	41	50	33	47	46	49	50	48	57
Breast and genito-urinary organs ..	42	35	33	47	39	56	41	34	48	52	42	51	45	65	54	45	66	49	57	61
Other and unspecified sites	10	16	8	13	13	14	10	8	4	16	10	8	13	14	17	13	15	20	11	9
*Lymphatic & haemopoietic tissues	6	1	4	6	2	8	4	3	3	8	11	8	8	15	4	6	6	13	6	15
Total	205	169	154	166	176	204	200	187	208	219	209	210	233	235	226	207	245	238	248	257
*Percent. of all deaths	14.4	11.0	9.2	12.5	12.1	15.6	14.8	13.9	15.2	16.9	14.9	14.9	17.1	18.5	18.4	17.1	20.0	19.6	19.5	19.5
*Percentage of deaths 35 and over.	18.4	13.9	11.8	15.7	15.0	18.9	17.8	17.2	17.9	19.3	17.2	16.5	18.7	20.5	19.8	18.8	21.4	20.3	20.9	20.6

*Under the regulations of the World Health Organisation which came into force on 1st January, 1950, the following diseases are now classified as Cancer: Hodgkin's disease, Lymphoma (reticulosis), Leukaemia and Aleukaemia and Mycosis Fungoides and these diseases have therefore been added to 1939/49 figures for comparison.

SUMMARY OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, 1958, taken at 9-0 a.m. (G.M.T.) daily at the Bents
Park and Health Department, South Shields.

MONTH.	Barometer (corrected for elevation, temperature, etc).		AIR TEMPERATURE °Fahr.				HYGROMETER °Fahr.			EARTH TEMPERATURE °Fahr.		RAINFALL (in inches)			WIND															
			Absolute.				Dry Bulb	Wet Bulb	Relative Humidity	At 1 Foot Depth	At 4 Feet Depth	Total Fall	No. of days rain fell .01" or more	Most in a day	Direction at 9 a.m. Number of Days.															
			Maximum		Minimum										Date	Date	Maximum	Minimum	Date	Amount	Date	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm
			Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum																								
January ..	29.681	42.9	33.0	53.0	27	18.4	22	37.2	35.7	86	36.2	41.0	1.66	16	.27	6	2	1	2	3	5	10	1	3	3	8	11	5	..	
February	29.688	43.8	33.8	54.0	20	23.5	7	37.9	36.3	85	26.6	39.6	3.86	22	.81	7	1	1	2	3	5	10	1	3	3	4	9	6	..	
March	29.833	42.1	33.8	54.9	4	19.0	10	37.7	36.1	84	37.8	39.6	3.45	18	.78	27	..	4	3	4	3	4	2	..	1	1	7	4	..	
April	29.990	51.5	39.4	65.2	29	28.2	2	46.3	42.4	71	43.8	42.4	1.90	15	.83	3	4	4	3	4	3	4	2	..	7	4	6	..	..
May	29.788	56.5	43.7	67.0	8	35.8	13	51.4	47.2	72	50.8	48.2	2.73	19	.67	10	..	4	4	3	4	3	7	1	6	3	7	..	..
June	29.840	59.6	48.3	74.1	14	44.2	1	55.1	52.2	82	56.7	52.7	2.18	17	.42	25	3	6	4	4	4	9	2	4	1	4	1	1	..	
July	29.793	65.0	52.9	78.3	8	44.9	25	59.5	55.9	79	61.3	57.2	3.09	19	.96	13	2	6	4	4	4	7	..	2	4	6	..	..	..
August ..	29.716	66.4	54.0	73.0	4	48.3	24	60.7	56.9	78	61.1	58.7	3.42	18	1.37	21	1	1	1	1	1	8	3	7	7	3	..	..	..
September	29.875	63.1	52.5	71.8	6	42.1	27	58.4	55.6	83	59.6	59.0	1.97	13	.52	19	5	3	1	1	6	6	6	1	2	1	2	..	..
October ..	29.922	57.5	46.1	64.1	8	37.0	28	52.0	49.2	81	52.2	54.7	1.04	13	.23	3	..	..	..	..	2	3	9	9	8	..	..	..	..
November	30.095	49.2	39.1	57.1	2	32.1	26	43.3	41.9	88	45.5	49.8	.84	10	.21	30	2	..	..	..	2	..	12	8	6	..	..	..	..
December	29.540	45.0	37.3	54.3	28	31.1	7	40.9	39.4	86	40.5	44.7	3.19	20	.52	18	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	6	..	..
AVERAGES	29.813	53.5	42.8	..	..	..	..	48.3	45.7	81	48.5	48.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29.33	200	..	..	21	32	24	58	23	77	70	60	..	..	..	..	..

PART II.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following tables give the corrected figures of all cases of Infectious Disease notified in the Borough during 1958 :—

Table A —Age Groups.

„ B —Ward Distribution (page 32).

„ C —Seasonal Incidence (page 33).

„ D —Comparative figures for past 10 years (page 34).

Table A.—Notifications, 1958, classified by Age Groups.

Disease	At all ages	Under 1	1 & 2	3 & 4	5— 9	10— 14	15— 24	25— 44	45— 64	65+
Scarlet Fever	70	1	12	18	38	1	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	161	24	30	29	68	10	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	36	7	6	9	8	4	2	..	..	..
Diphtheria .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia :										
influenzal	5	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	2
primary	102	..	6	7	5	4	11	22	26	21
Dysentery	81	4	11	11	20	8	4	13	8	2
Smallpox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhoid Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paratyphoid Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	15	..	1	..	..	..	..	4	7	3
Meningococcal infection	14	6	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Food poisoning	14	..	..	2	2	..	..	4	5	1
Puerperal pyrexia ..	20	..	..	..	..	..	8	12	..	..
Ophthalmia neonatorum	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis :										
respiratory	147	2	3	3	5	8	40	42	34	10
non-respiratory	8	1	..	..	..	1	3	1	2	..
Total	682	53	77	81	147	36	68	99	82	39

Table B.—Ward Distribution of Notifications, 1958.

Disease	Beacon	Bents	Biddick Hall	Brinkburn	Cleadon	Harton	Horsley Hill	Marsden	Rekendyke	Simonside	Tyne Dock	Victoria	Westoe	West Park	Whiteleas	Non-Residents	Total
Scarlet Fever	5	2	3	7	5	2	10	10	3	9	1	..	5	3	5	..	70
Whooping Cough	22	9	35	17	3	5	7	5	11	7	25	3	2	1	9	..	161
Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Measles	1	1	2	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	5	..	3	1	5	..	36
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia :																	..
influenzal	..	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	5
primary	11	12	4	12	7	8	7	7	4	5	6	7	5	4	3	..	102
Dysentery	7	5	11	4	2	1	6	3	12	10	3	1	6	6	2	1	80
Smallpox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Typhoid Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paratyphoid Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	2	1	2	1	1	3	..	1	..	1	..	..	2	1	..	..	15
Meningococcal infection	1	1	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	3	14
Food poisoning	2	..	2	2	..	..	3	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	1	..	14
Puerperal pyrexia	4	..	3	2	..	1	1	..	2	2	1	..	2	2	..	..	20
Ophthalmia neonatorum	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	7
Malaria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis :																	..
respiratory	7	14	22	10	10	5	14	15	11	5	5	10	11	2	6	..	147
non-respiratory	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	2	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	8

Table C.—Seasonal Incidence of Notifications, 1958.

Disease.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Scarlet fever	5	6	2	4	7	1	5	3	8	8	12	9	70
Whooping Cough..	..	..	2	1	..	2	8	9	14	26	68	31	161
Acute poliomyelitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Measles	7	1	..	1	1	2	1	11	2	6	3	1	36
Diphtheria .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia :													
influenzal .....	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	5
primary	20	15	9	15	5	2	6	..	3	8	10	9	102
Dysentery	8	20	9	5	10	8	..	2	1	5	4	9	81
Smallpox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute encephalitis .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Typhoid fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paratyphoid fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	1	..	2	..	1	2	..	2	2	..	1	4	15
Meningococcal infection ..	4	1	1	2	3	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	14
Food poisoning .....	..	..	..	..	1	4	4	2	1	1	..	1	14
Puerperal pyrexia	4	1	3	1	..	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	20
Ophthalmia neonatorum ..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	4	..	..	..	1	7
Malaria .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis :													
respiratory	8	16	11	13	19	9	8	8	17	10	17	11	147
non-respiratory .....	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	2	8
Total	57	63	41	43	47	33	34	45	50	68	120	81	682

Table D.—Comparative Notifications for the past ten years

Disease	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Scarlet fever	230	106	208	318	176	102	38	119	86	70
Whooping Cough	481	202	519	561	227	312	414	130	108	161
Acute poliomyelitis	11	23	7	6	2	11	1	5	2	1
Acute polioencephalitis	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Measles	1,368	1,194	1,704	1,676	1,259	1,546	867	379	3218	36
Diphtheria	20	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia : influenza	12	23	24	7	17	9	4	3	36	5
primary	218	133	120	99	129	130	161	167	137	102
Dysentery	8	272	20	36	16	132	182	152	187	81
Smallpox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis lethargica	..	..	5	1	1	1	1	2	..	1
Acute encephalitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhoid fever	10	4	4	5	4	3	2	..	..	..
Paratyphoid fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	2	..
Erysipelas	31	20	29	17	20	26	22	13	15	15
Cerebro-spinal fever .....	..	6	3	10	9	1	2	4	3	14
Meningococcal infection .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Food poisoning	40	55	11	45	15	9	27	26	12	14
Puerperal pyrexia	16	11	33	58	50	48	40	47	14	20
Ophthalmia neonatorum	7	8	6	5	2	4	1	2	4	7
Malaria .....	..	9	3	3	2	1	..	..	..	..
Pemphigus neonatorum .....	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis : respiratory	188	166	208	236	237	176	178	150	158	147
non-respiratory	36	35	36	24	23	20	15	11	10	8

Notes on certain infectious diseases.

Scarlet fever.

Seventy cases were notified. Of these, 9 patients (13%) were admitted to hospital. Most of the cases were very mild and of the 39 patients of school age all were back to school within one month of notification. There were no fatal cases.

Whooping Cough.

161 cases were notified and in addition 22 cases were reported by Head Teachers. Immunisation against whooping cough commenced in December, 1951. The following table shows the number of cases in age groups and cases occurring who had previously received a complete course of immunising vaccine, together with the total immunisations carried out in 1958.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Cases of Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Cases previously immunised</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Immunisa- tions 1958</i>
Under 1	24	1	.....	402
1—2	30	.....	.....	871
3—4	29	2	.....	52
5—9	68	7	.....	63
10—14.....	10	1	.....	2
15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	161	11	.....	1,390

Poliomyelitis

Two cases were notified, but in one case, the diagnosis was not confirmed. The confirmed case, a boy aged two years, had a mild degree of paralysis and recovered. He had not been vaccinated against the disease.

Details of the arrangements for vaccination against poliomyelitis are given on page 75.

Measles

Thirty-six cases were notified; this is the lowest number notified in any year since the disease was made notifiable. Hospital treatment was not required in any case and there were no deaths.

Dysentery

247 suspected cases were reported ; of these, 81 were confirmed by laboratory tests as suffering from sonne type dysentery. Five patients were treated in hospital. All these cases were followed up until three consecutive negative bacteriological results were obtained ; a total of 978 faeces specimens were collected and examined by the Public Health Laboratories. Special supervision was exercised over food handlers. There was one dysentery death, a child of 5½ years who died in Walker Gate hospital, after periods of observations and treatment for cerebral palsy in other hospitals.

Encephalitis

One case of encephalitis, a male infant of two months, was notified after death in hospital.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid fever

No cases of typhoid fever or paratyphoid fever were reported.

Meningococcal infection

Fourteen cases were notified ; nine males and five females, ages ranging from two months to three years. All were treated in hospital ; one patient, a female aged 20 months, died and the others recovered. Three of the cases were non-residents of South Shields.

Food Poisoning : Memo 188/Med., Appendix D (1)

The following is a summary of the cases which occurred during the year.

(1) 1st Quarter—Nil. 2nd Quarter—5. 3rd Quarter—7.
4th Quarter—2. Total—14.

(2) Outbreaks due to Identified Agents :—
Total : 2. Total cases : 5. Fatal Cases : Nil.
(*Salmonella typhi-murium*—5)

(3) Outbreaks of Undiscovered Cause : Nil.

(4) Single Cases : Total 8 : Fatal : Nil.
(All *Salmonella typhi-murium*)

(5) Cases identified in hospital : 1. Fatal cases : Nil.

(6) Other cases : Three children (6, 7 and 11) were admitted to hospital with suspected food poisoning. It was found that all had eaten laburnum seeds while playing in a public park. All recovered and were discharged from hospital after two days.

Infective Hepatitis

During 1958, 12 cases were reported. All were children of school age—7 boys and 5 girls.

There was family contact in three cases, and one patient had a history of school contact with cases of “jaundice”.

The symptoms in 9 cases were stated to have been mild and the other three were of moderate severity. One case was treated in hospital.

Infectious Disease Contacts—Transfers from other areas.

Ten persons entering the country by sea had been in contact with a case of typhoid fever on the voyage.

Six persons entering the country by sea, and 48 entering by air, had come from a smallpox infected area.

All these contacts were kept under observations for the necessary period and bacteriological tests made where necessary, but none contracted either of the diseases.

Hospital Treatment

During 1958, 44 cases of infectious diseases belonging to South Shields were treated in hospitals as under :—

				<i>Sherriff</i>			
	<i>Deans</i>	<i>General</i>	<i>Ingham</i>	<i>Hill</i>	<i>Havelock</i>	<i>Fleming</i>	
	<i>Hosp.</i>	<i>Hosp.</i>	<i>Inf.</i>	<i>Hosp.</i>	<i>Hosp.</i>	<i>Hosp.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Scarlet Fever	8	1	..	9
Encephalitis	1	..	..	..	..	1
Acute poliomyelitis	1	..	..	..	1
Dysentery	2	3	..	..	..	5
Meningococcal infection	14	..	..	..	..	14
Pneumonia	1	3	3	..	..	..	7
Puerperal pyrexia	4	..	..	..	..	4
Infective hepatitis	1	..	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	1
Food poisoning	1	..	..	1
TOTAL	1	24	7	9	2	1	44

In addition, nine patients were admitted to the South Shields General Hospital, and one patient to Sherriff Hill Hospital, suspected to be suffering from infectious diseases which were not confirmed on subsequent diagnosis.

Laboratory Examinations

The following is a classified list of pathological examinations etc., carried out at various laboratories for the Public Health Department.

	<i>Public Health Laboratory Newcastle.</i>	<i>General Hospital South Shields.</i>	<i>Public Health Laboratory Sunderland.</i>
Ear, throat or nasal swabs	1	8	.....
Faeces	972	.....	6
Food Specimens	4	.....	1
Blood complement fixation tests (influenza)	2	.....	.....
<hr/>			
Total	979	8	7
<hr/>			

PART III.—LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES.

National Health Service Acts, 1946-52.

THE FIRST TEN YEARS.

The following review of the local health services during the past ten years of the existence of the National Health Service is submitted in accordance with the request contained in the Ministry of Health Circular 22/58.

Care of Mothers and Young Children.

The extent of the authority's provision of services for ante-natal care has remained fairly constant but the role of the ante-natal clinics has undergone a slight but significant change ; more and more as the maternity medical services of general practitioners have become established, the ante-natal clinic staffs have appreciated the need to co-ordinate their work with that of the general practitioner obstetricians. This natural evolution has been accompanied by developments in health education e.g. relaxation classes and mothercraft instruction and a greater concern for the general health and social aspects. The system is not without fault but in time the clinics will ultimately assume the pattern envisaged in the Cranbrook report.

There have been allegations that due to the overlapping of the services, some patients have too many ante-natal examinations ; the realisation that this is a possibility has compelled most of those concerned to work more closely together and with a better understanding. At any rate it can be said that whilst a few expectant mothers mainly due to their ignorance or apathy fail to receive adequate ante-natal care, the majority are well provided for.

In the field of child welfare the provision of clinics has been adjusted to meet the needs of the new housing estates but there has been little change in the total numbers of babies seen. In fact South Shields mothers generally have the clinic going habit and it is a good habit. There has been some falling away in the attendance of children aged between 1 and 4 years and various measures have been introduced e.g. such as the birthday examination of the four year olds to fill the gap. The medical officers in the clinics have co-operated as far as possible with the hospitals and general practitioners. The clinics are of course the target of occasional criticism but I have no doubt of their value and continuing need as centres for the assessment of progress of the normal young child and for the ascertainment of early departures from the normal.

The provision of dental services for mothers and young children has developed reasonably well. Some years ago new arrangements were instituted whereby the more major dental operations have been undertaken in the Municipal Clinic instead of the General Hospital as formerly. The main difficulties in the way of expansion towards a satisfactory preventive scheme have been the general public apathy towards dental health and the shortage of dentists. Attempts to interest the public in dental health however are continually being made.

Among the other services for maternity and child welfare, the day nurseries have continued to have a steady demand for places and there is a constant waiting list. Arrangements for the issue of welfare foods were taken over in 1954 by the local health authority. For various reasons, the yearly totals of items issued especially National Dried Milk and cod liver oil have shown marked decreases over the past five years.

Domiciliary Midwifery

In marked contrast to the extent of ante-natal provision, the maternity services in South Shields in the past ten years have been handicapped by the inadequate number of maternity hospital beds available. Whether the mothers in the town are by now accustomed to this situation, it would be generally true to say that unless she is living in adverse social conditions or is having an abnormal pregnancy, the South Shields mother has little chance of having a hospital confinement if she so desires. On the other hand she will nearly always be well cared for if she is having her baby at home with both family doctor and midwife in attendance ; with so much domiciliary midwifery being practised in the town, a good standard of practice and of co-operation between doctor and midwife has developed. To cope with the continued demand, the midwives staff has had to be maintained at full establishment and although there have been difficulties, the existence of the authority's Part II training school has been of great assistance to the midwives. At the same time the pupil midwives have been provided with excellent training experience ; fortunately in recent years there has been a full complement of pupils in the training school almost throughout the year.

Health Visiting :

Very gradually the health visitor's work has come to be more appreciated although perhaps not fully understood. There tends to be a little more co-operation between them and general practitioners but on the whole there is still some way to go before their work is

integrated to any extent with that of the family doctor. There has been more activity in the way of direct co-operation with the hospitals and at one time there was a promising development of a health visitor being present at discussions in a hospital concerning the after care of patients about to be discharged. This arrangement which for certain reasons lapsed after a period would have been of great benefit to the patients. However as the various hospital units can take increasing interest in the environment of the patient as well as the patient himself, the significance of the health visitor's role will be apparent.

Of the health visitor's work probably the main feature about it is the varied nature. The day of the routine visit is over and she is now accustomed to meeting situations of all kinds where her help is needed. In recent years, the increasing amount of time devoted to the care of the aged, care of handicapped children, the work entailed with problem families and the greater efforts to prevent the breaking up of families have been the most noticeable changes in the content of her work. In addition there has been a considerable increase in health education activity in the department as a whole and in this the health visitor has played a full part.

Home Nursing.

This service continues to be separately administered and is provided by the South Shields District Nursing Association as agents for the local health authority. Whilst the considerable volume of work undertaken by the nurses has not changed significantly in recent years, the wider use of antibiotic drugs is reflected in the increasing number of injections which the nurses administer. As a member of the domiciliary team, the district nurse is also encountering a greater proportion of elderly patients whose care may necessitate many visits.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

The increasing number of preventive inoculation schemes has brought with it the very difficult problem of finding a suitable means of recording all the injections, so that persons who have received inoculations would themselves have some reference card as to their immunisation state. In the meantime, the careful maintenance in the department of separate records for the various schemes is continued so that at least the records are all available in one place.

Acceptance rates for vaccination and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, smallpox and poliomyelitis have by the constant efforts of the staff risen to satisfactorily levels although these could still be improved, especially smallpox vaccination.

Ambulance Service.

The statistics for the ambulance service appear to show that during the past five years a fairly stable maximum has been reached.

The average yearly totals for this period for (a) patients carried, (b) number of journeys and (c) mileage are respectively and approximately 36,000 ; 15,000 and 168,000. These figures however, are very sensitive to changes made in arrangements for the hospital services and one would expect that any major fluctuations in the future would arise for that reason.

It is not likely that more economic use of the service is possible to any great extent ; whilst uneconomic use is less frequently observed, there is still some scope for better co-ordination of use of ambulances by the hospitals, although in the local hospitals at least a good deal has been achieved in this direction. A card system for patients introduced some years ago has helped considerably. Long distance journeys are now invariably carried out by rail with ambulance transport at either end of the journey. This has always proved much more comfortable for the patient.

The number of vehicles has been stabilised at ten and with the radio telephone system which was installed in 1951, it is possible under most circumstances to provide an efficient service. With their quick response to accidents and their general helpfulness the staff have gained for themselves a deservedly good reputation. The lack of proper accommodation for the staff and vehicles will shortly be remedied by a new ambulance station which is now under construction.

Prevention Care and After Care.

With regard to tuberculosis, there is still a considerable pool of infection as is shown by the high yearly notification figures. However a gradual diminishing trend has begun and by the more intensive preventive and case finding efforts in recent years it is to be hoped that the downward trend will continue and if possible gather momentum.

The health visitors have assisted the Chest Physician in obtaining a much larger number of contact examinations and their normal home visiting is of course concentrated on the active cases. The introduction of the B.C.G. scheme for school children in 1954 was a useful addition to the preventive work and it has enabled a comprehensive case finding screen to be applied to school children in their last years at school. The great value of the tuberculin test as an epidemiological method has been increasingly appreciated.

Care and after care work was also expanded by the appointment of a full-time qualified almoner in 1957. Unfortunately the almoner left for another post in 1958, but the work has been continued by the health visiting staff.

With the lower figures for venereal disease, there has been little activity in contact tracing and similar work but signs of rising incidence may necessitate special arrangements being made in the future.

There have been considerably increased demands for the loan of nursing requisites and the service has had to be more fully organised. Apart from the usual type of article, there have been provided from time to time more specialised items of equipment (e.g. hoists, special types of bed, etc). Referrals are frequently made by the district nurses and as would be expected a good deal of the demand comes from the aged and patients with long term illness.

Similarly arrangements have been made for an increasing number of persons to have recuperative holidays. Experience has shown that from a fair proportion of these patients, the request arises more for social reasons than medical grounds. Nevertheless the service is of considerable value from the wider aspects of prevention, care and after care.

Home Help Service

Of all the local health authority services, the large and rapid expansion in this field has been the most dramatic. At the time of the 1952 survey, there was a staff of twelve home helps which provided 14,814 hours of service in that year whereas the corresponding figures for 1958 were 181 home helps and 164,450 hours of service (most of which have been allocated to old people).

There is no doubt of the value of this service which is strictly controlled as to the allocation of help and of the hours given. Cases are frequently referred by hospitals and general practitioners. It is clear that the service has shielded the hospitals and welfare hostels from the pressure of aged and chronic sickness which would have been much greater if the service had remained at the former small size.

With such a rapid growth there has been little opportunity to establish a scheme for the training of home helps and this must be a future consideration.

Mental Health Services

The main development has been the commencement in 1955 of a scheme for the training of mental defectives. A full-time occupation centre is now in existence providing facilities for boys and girls under 16 and females over 16, whilst a centre for males over 16 is about to be established. The scheme has been met by an encouraging response and a waiting list already exists which it is hoped will be ultimately absorbed by the appointment of additional staff.

Three mental health officers provide a general service of advice and after care for the mentally disordered. In common with the other services a large part of their time is devoted in general to old people, and in particular, to those showing varying degrees of senile mental disorder. In recent years a noticeable change has been the increase in numbers of patients admitted to hospital by informal procedure but the high incidence of mental illness generally is a challenge awaiting the new mental health legislation.

In conclusion, the Part III services may well have appeared rather insignificant in 1948 especially when compared with the provisions for the hospital and general medical services. They have taken a considerable time to get into gear but their true value has become apparent year by year. Although most of them are capable of still further development in the light of changing and increasing need, the chief difficulty during the past ten years has been in weaving them into the overall pattern of the National Health Service. There was no statutory machinery for this at local level and in the long run it has been the professional workers in the various services who by their co-operation and understanding have produced a fabric which although not yet of ideal design will withstand the wear and tear of the future.

SECTION 22.—CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Notification of Births.

The number of births notified or registered in the Borough during 1958, was as follows :—

	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Still Births</i>
DOMICILIARY BIRTHS :		
Notified by midwives	1,317	8
BIRTHS IN SOUTH SHIELDS MATERNITY HOSPITAL :		
Notified by midwives	603	39
	1,920	47
Less—Born in Borough to mothers not normally resident in the town :		
In South Shields Maternity Hospital	180	13
	1,740	34
Add—Born outside Borough to mothers normally resident in the town :		
In Institutions	*325	*4
Net Total	2,065	38

*The institutions outside the Borough where the births occurred were as follows :—

	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Still Births</i>
Danesfield Maternity Home, Jarrow	186	.....
Princess Mary's Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne	66	.....
Hopedene Maternity Hospital, N'cle.	31	3
Dilston Hall Nursing Home	13	.....
Ashleigh Nursing Home, Gosforth	7	.....
General Hospital, Newcastle	6	.....
Maternity Hospital, Sunderland	3	.....
Royal Infirmary, Sunderland	3	.....
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead	2	1
Lealholme Nursing Home, Sunderland	2	.....
War Memorial Hospital, Haltwhistle	1	.....
Avenue Hospital, Bridlington	1	.....

	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Still Births</i>
General Hospital, Sunderland	1	.....
Frater Maternity Home	1	.....
Dacre House, Morpeth	1	.....
City Hospital, Chester	1	.....
	<hr/> 325	<hr/> 4

The total births correspond to a birth rate for 1958 of 19.1 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 19.5 in 1957, and 17.9 in 1956.

Included in this total are 36 sets of twins :—

11 sets born at home.

21 sets born in South Shields Maternity Hospital
(2 stillborn).

4 sets born in hospitals outside of town.

Premature Infants

The number of premature live births (i.e. weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less at birth) notified during the year as belonging to South Shields was 185 ; 87 of these were born at home, 75 in the South Shields Maternity Hospital and 23 in hospitals and nursing homes outside of town.

The survival of these during the first 28 days of life is shown in the following table :—

Weight at birth	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS												PREMATURE STILL-BIRTHS		
	*Born in Hospital			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there			Born in nursing home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day		
(1)	Total (2)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (3)	Survived 28 days (4)	Total (5)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (6)	Survived 28 days (7)	Total (8)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (9)	Survived 28 days (10)	Total (11)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (12)	Survived 28 days (13)	Total (14)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (15)	Survived 28 days (16)
(a) 3 lb. 4 oz. or less (1,500 gms. or less).....	15	10	3	2	...	2	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz. (1,500-2,000 gms.)	23	1	20	12	...	11	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz. (2,000-2,250 gms.)	21	...	20	22	...	22	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
(d) Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz. (2,250-2,500 gms.).....	39	1	36	43	...	43	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	98	12	79	79	...	78	8	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...

*The group under this heading will include cases which may be born in one hospital and transferred to another.

Premature Still Births

Of the 38 still-births recorded, 22 were premature ; (2 occurred at home and 20 in hospitals).

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

There were seven cases of ophthalmia neonatorum notified during the year, all occurring in domiciliary confinements. One case left town, during the year, and there was no impairment of vision in the other cases.

Thirty-five cases of " discharging eyes " were notified by midwives. Three of these cases were still under treatment at the end of the year and there was no impairment of vision in the remainder of the cases. One case brought forward from 1955 was still under the care of a consultant at the end of 1958.

Pemphigus Neonatorum

No cases were notified.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Twenty cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified, 3 of which occurred in the South Shields Maternity Hospital and 17 in domiciliary confinements. 12 of the cases nursed at home were referred to the nurses of the South Shields and District Nursing Association. 11 of the 20 cases were due to influenza, 4 to cystitis, 2 to mastitis, and 3 not stated.

Infant Mortality

There were 49 deaths among infants under one year of age (32 boys and 17 girls) ; an infantile mortality rate of 23.58 per 1,000 births. The neo-natal mortality was 19.25 per 1,000 births.

There were 2 deaths among the 95 illegitimate children under one year of age, compared with 47 deaths among 1,983 legitimate children.

The principal causes of deaths in infants were :—

Prematurity	17
Congenital defects	19
Pneumonia	2
Other causes.....	11

In the following table, the births of South Shields babies are set out for the past ten years according to whether the confinements took place in hospital or at home. The gradual increase of hospital confinements over the past few years is noticeable but the proportion of hospital births is still below that of the country generally. In addition still births are analysed separately from live births and the still birth rates for the past ten years show how considerably this figure varied from year to year.

BIRTHS FOR SOUTH SHIELDS COUNTY BOROUGH.

NET LIVE BIRTHS.					STILLBIRTHS.				
	Home	South Shields Maternity Hospital *	Other Hospitals	Total	Home	South Shields Maternity Hospital *	Other Hospitals	Total	Still Birth Rate
1949.....	1,512	563 (71)	52	2,127	10	30 (9)	..	40	18.5
1950.....	1,570	259 (74)	186	2,015	17	20 (9)	4	41	19.9
1951.....	1,416	324 (82)	193	1,933	16	27 (8)	4	47	23.7
1952.....	1,293	540 (169)	174	2,007	16	31 (12)	4	51	24.8
1953.....	1,207	559 (160)	229	1,995	7	29 (19)	4	40	19.7
1954.....	1,185	611 (214)	245	2,041	12	24 (20)	..	36	17.3
1955.....	1,073	617 (222)	270	1,960	16	43 (19)	1	60	29.7
1956.....	1,052	580 (256)	303	1,935	7	38 (25)	5	50	25.2
1957.....	1,203	516 (211)	395	2,114	18	28 (18)	13	59	27.2
1958.....	1,330	423 (180)	325	2,078	8	26 (13)	4	38	18.0
Total	12,841	4,992 (1,639)	2,372	20,205	127	296 (152)	39	462	22.4

* The figures in parentheses refer to births occurring in the Maternity Hospital to Mothers who are not resident in South Shields.

South Shields Births (Net)—1949 to 1958 (inclusive).

	Live	Still.
Total at Home	12,841 +	127
Total in Hospitals	7,364 +	335
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	20,667	100%

Peri-Natal Mortality

When the number of still births is combined with the number of infants who die in the first week of life the resulting figure gives the peri-natal deaths. The causative factors involved in this loss of life are considered to be common to both categories hence the value of aggregating both figures as follows :—

	<i>Number of Stillbirths</i>	<i>Deaths of Infants during first week of life</i>	<i>Total (Peri-natal deaths)</i>	<i>Deaths of Infants between one week and twelve months</i>
1949	40	32	72	65
1950	41	29	70	46
1951	47	41	88	35
1952	51	40	91	37
1953	40	30	70	29
1954	36	32	68	33
1955	60	42	102	24
1956	50	24	74	16
1957	59	28	87	21
1958	38	33	71	16

The mortality of infants after the first week has shown a steady improvement over the years due to various factors including improvement in social conditions and medical services. The loss of infant life taking place before, during and soon after birth however is not diminishing to the same extent as can be seen from the above figures. Peri-natal mortality remains as a hard core of the general problem of infant survival and presents a considerable challenge to preventive medicine.

Neonatal Cold Injury

During cold spells in 1958, the midwives were reminded of the risks to premature infants.

Maternal Mortality

There were four deaths among South Shields mothers during the year due to or associated with pregnancy.

The maternal death-rate was 1.41 per 1,000 total births as compared with nil in 1957. The rate for England and Wales was 0.45 per 1,000 total births.

The three deaths due to pregnancy were :—

1. Pulmonary embolus.
2. Shock following attempted self-induced abortion.
3. Post partum eclampsia and sub-arachnoid haemorrhage.

and one death associated with pregnancy :—

“ Peritonitis, perforation of large bowel, ulcerative colitis ”.

Ante-Natal Clinics

Three clinics are in use as follows :—

Municipal Clinic, Stanhope Parade.

“ Nook ” Assembly Hall, Cleadon and the
Community Centre Hut, Steward Crescent.

Number of sessions held during the year.....	288
Women attending	1,970
New cases	1,868
Total attendances	11,678

Post-Natal Clinics

Patients were seen at the
Municipal Clinic, Stanhope Parade.

Number of sessions held during the year.....	44
Women attending (total).....	92
New cases	92
Total attendances	104

Child Welfare Centres

Five morning and nine afternoon clinics are held each week. Two of the morning clinics are devoted to toddlers. Three sessions are held at the Municipal Clinic and eleven at the branch clinics, as follows :—

Municipal Clinic, Stanhope Parade—Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

“ Nook ” Hall, Cleadon Park—Wednesday morning ; Tuesday afternoon.

West Harton Methodist Church Hall—Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Ingham Street Hall—Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon

Hudson Street Youth Club—Tuesday afternoon (discontinued in December).

Steward Crescent Community Centre Hut—Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

Wenlock Road Methodist Church Hall—Wednesday afternoon.

Galsworthy Road Hall—Thursday mornings (commenced in January).

Attendances at Child Welfare Clinics

Total number of sessions held	694
New attenders in 1958 :—	
(a) Babies under 1 year	1,708
(b) Children between 1 and 5 years	113
<hr/>	
(c) Total	1,821
Total number of attendances	23,912

As in previous years, the attendance of babies under twelve months is very satisfactory whilst the figures for children between one and five years is very low. This pattern becomes more marked each year and attempts have been made in the past to increase the attendances of toddlers by holding special sessions for them but without much success. Since 1955, children on reaching their fourth birthday have been offered a full medical examination and the numbers of children attending for this purpose is increasing each year (see page 58). The figures for the 4 year old examinations are not included in the above.

Clinic Accommodation

A new child welfare clinic was opened in January in the All Saints' Church Hall, Galsworthy Road. One weekly session is held and the facilities in this new hall are very good. This clinic serves parts of the council housing estates in the Whiteleas and Biddick Hall Wards.

Owing to clearance of the adjacent houses and falling attendances, the child welfare clinic, held in the Hudson Street Youth Club was discontinued in December.

DEATHS DURING 1958 OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR. CAUSES AND AGES

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CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 year	Males	Females
All causes : Certified ..	32	3	3	1	39	8	1	..	..	48	32	16
Uncertified	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Code.												
331 Cerebral haemorrhage	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	1	1
343 Encephalitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..
483 Influenza .....	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..
491 Broncho pneumonia ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..
750/59 Con. malformations ..	1	2	1	..	4	4	1	..	..	9	5	4
760/62 Birth injuries, etc.	9	1	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	10	7	3
763/64 Infections of the new born.....	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	2	1	1
769/73 Diseases of early infancy	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
776 Immaturity	4	..	1	..	5	..	..	..	..	5	1	4
	17	..	..	..	17	..	..	..	..	17	14	3
Total	33	3	3	1	40	8	1	..	..	49	32	17

DEATHS DURING 1958 OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR : CAUSES AND WARD DISTRIBUTION

CAUSES OF DEATH	WARDS														Total	
	Beacon	Bents	Biddick Hall	Brinkburn	Cleadon	Harton	Horsley Hill	Marsden	Rekendyke	Simonside	Tyne Dock	Victoria	Westoe	West Park		Whiteleas
All causes : Certified	3	7	1	..	3	3	4	8	6	3	4	3	2	1	48
Uncertified	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Code.																
331 Cerebral haemorrhage	1	..	..	..	1	..	2
343 Encephalitis	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
483 Influenza	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
491 Broncho pneumonia	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
750/59 Congenital malformations	1	..	..	..	2	1	2	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	9
760/62 Birth injuries, etc.	1	..	..	..	..	1	3	2	1	1	1	..	..	10

Deaths during 1958 of Infants under one year : Causes and Ward Distribution—continued.

CAUSES OF DEATH	WARDS													TOTAL		
	Beacon	Bents	Biddick Hall	Brinkburn	Cleadon Park	Harton	Horsley Hill	Marsden	Rekendyke	Simonside	Tyne Dock	Victoria	Westoe		West Park	Whiteleas
763/64 Infections of the newborn	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
769/73 Diseases of early infancy	1	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	5
776 Immaturity	4	..	..	1	..	1	4	2	1	2	1	..	1	17
Total deaths under 1 year	3	7	1	..	3	3	5	8	6	3	4	3	2	1	49
*Number of Births	125	153	204	145	104	100	140	119	236	125	152	152	114	106	90	2065
*Infant Mortality Rate	19.6	34.3	7.0	..	30.0	21.4	42.0	33.9	48.0	19.7	26.3	26.3	18.9	11.1	23.7

*The births dealt with in this table are (a) 1,740 live births notified under the Public Health Act ; and (b) 325 inward transfers from other districts, but 180 births in the South Shields Maternity Hospital among non-residents of the Borough are excluded. Elsewhere in this report the Registrar-General figures of births registered during the calendar year have been used for the calculation of birth rates.

Distribution of Welfare Foods

Food is distributed from the Clinics as follows :—

	<i>Weekly Sessions</i>
Municipal Clinic, Stanhope Parade	
Monday to Friday	Mornings and afternoons
Saturday	Mornings.....11
Nook Hall, Sunderland Road	
Tuesday	Afternoons 1
Community Centre Hut, Steward Crescent	
Wednesday	Mornings.....
Friday	Afternoons 2
West Harton Methodist Church Hall, Boldon Lane	
Tuesday	Mornings
Friday	Mornings..... 2
Ingham Street Hall	
Thursday	Afternoons 1
Youth Club, Hudson Street	
Tuesday	Afternoons 1
Wenlock Road Methodist Church Hall	
Wednesday	Afternoons 1
Galsworthy Road Hall	
Thursday	Mornings 1
	—
Total	20 sessions
	==

The total amounts issued were :—

Under Circular 10/54

	1957	1958
National Dried Milk (tins)	106,559	87,848
Cod Liver Oil (bottles)	11,967	6,733
Vitamin A. & D. Tablets (packets)	4,691	4,253
Orange Juice (bottles)	87,367	54,254

The reduction in the issues of Dried Milk is no doubt due to the Government's policy in increasing the charge to recipients from 10½d. to 2/4d. per tin as from 6th April, 1957. The tendency to earlier weaning of babies to solid foods is probably also reflected in these figures.

Under Local Health Authority's other arrangements

Virol (cartons)	2,909	2,362
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Day Nurseries

The following is a statement of the work of the two Day Nurseries, Nos. 1 and 29 Beach Road, for the past year. There is accommodation for 40 children in each nursery.

	1 <i>Beach Road</i>	29 <i>Beach Road</i>
No. of children on the register at end of 1957	42	41
Admissions during 1958 :—		
Under 2 years old	30	26
2—5 years old	40	39
No. of attendances during 1958 :—		
Under 2 years old	2,401	2,376
2—5 years old	5,823	5,524
Average attendance per session :—		
Under 2 years old	9.5	9.4
2—5 years old	22.9	21.7
No. of children on the register at the end of 1958 :—		
Under 2 years old	8	10
2—5 years old	30	29

218 individual children from 188 families made use of the Day Nurseries in 1958 and the admission of children on the authority of the Matron continues to operate satisfactorily.

Taken over the whole year the percentage of children whose mothers were in full employment was 88.4% and 11.6% were compassionate cases

Training

The Day Nurseries are authorised as a training school for the Nursery Nurses' Certificate. During 1958 a total of 10 student nursery nurses received training and 2 students were successful in obtaining their certificates'

Ultra Violet-Ray Treatment

Fifty children made 712 attendances. Conditions treated were :

Debility.....	31
Chest diseases	8
Underdevelopment : bones & muscles	9
Other conditions	2

Care of Illegitimate Children

The scheme for the care of illegitimate children and unmarried mothers is carried out by a joint committee of the Council and the Jarrow Deanery Moral Welfare Association. A full-time welfare worker is employed with an office in South Shields. Her duties, however, also embrace the areas of neighbouring authorities.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the welfare worker for South Shields cases during 1958 :—

No. of unmarried mothers seeking help and advice	34
„ married women with illegitimate children	4
„ widow with illegitimate child	1
South Shields children placed for adoption elsewhere.....	19
Other area children placed for adoption in South Shields.....	13

Routine Medical Examination of Pre-School Children

To the parents of all children on reaching their fourth birthday, a special letter is sent offering, on a voluntary basis, a full medical examination of the child. This scheme was initiated in 1955, and there has been a very satisfactory response from parents. The examination takes place at special toddlers' sessions held at three of the child welfare centres in the town.

The value of this arrangement is that a medical assessment of each child can be made prior to school entry and advice can be given on any defects, handicaps or other problems which might have a bearing on the future education of the child. Cases can also be referred to the general practitioner or hospital consultant as necessary, and any inoculation or vaccination procedure can be given in preparation for school entry.

	<i>No. of Children offered examinations.</i>	<i>No. of Children examined.</i>	<i>No. of Children referred to hospital or general practitioner.</i>
1955	445	338	9
1956	713	608	15
1957	756	446	22
1958	662	647	10

Dental Care of Nursing and Expectant Mothers and Children under School Age.

The aim of the Department is to encourage as much interest in preventive dentistry as possible. As opportunity arises the Chief Dental Officer gives talks to mothers on aspects of dental health education.

The number of fillings for mothers is disappointingly low. Indeed there is a slight reduction as compared with the previous year. The opposite is the case as regards dentures, as there has been a corresponding increase in the number of dentures fitted. The reason for this is probably due to the fact that the mothers do themselves seek treatment when dentures are involved; this is rarely the case as regards conservative treatment.

Due to shortage of staff it has not been possible to expand the facilities for systematic dental inspection of mothers and young children.

DENTAL CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE

(1)

(a)	Number of Officers employed at end of year on a salary basis in terms of whole-time officers to the maternity and child welfare service :—	
	(1) Senior Dental Officer	0.25
	(2) Dental Officers	..
(b)	Number of Officers employed at end of year on a sessional basis in terms of whole-time officers to the maternity and child welfare service	0.18
(c)	Number of dental clinics in operation at end of year	1
(d)	Total number of sessions (i.e. equivalent complete half days) devoted to maternity and child welfare patients during the year	84
(e)	Number of dental technicians employed in the Local Health Authority's own laboratories at the end of the year	..

(2) DENTAL TREATMENT RETURN

A. NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE :

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	266	266	222	116
Children under Five	263	258	240	110

B. FORMS OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED

	Scalings and Gum Treatment	Fillings	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Crowns or Inlays	Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Dentures Provided		Radio-graphs
							Full Upper or Lower	Partial Upper or Lower	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	69	95	..	..	1001	78	77	50	4
Children under Five	4	15	10	..	532	200	..	..	..

SECTION 23—MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

Intention to practise.

Thirty-five midwives notified their intention to practise during 1958. Of these, 13 were in the maternity hospital, and 23 were municipal domiciliary midwives. At the end of the year 23 midwives were in the municipal service (4 giving part time service only) and 19 in the maternity hospital.

Suspension from practice.

There were no temporary suspensions of midwives notified to the Central Midwives Board on account of infection conditions.

Domiciliary Midwives.

Attention was given in 1,325 domiciliary births, 104 more than in 1957. Of the total births to South Shields residents (2,103), 63.0% occurred at home and 37.0% in hospital. In 1,295 cases the services of a doctor as well as a midwife were engaged. In 424 cases medical aid was sought by the midwives under Section 14(1) of the Midwives Act, 1951.

The following table gives a summary of the work of the domiciliary midwives during 1958 :—

Number of births attended :—

As midwives.....	1,072
As nurses	253
Other cases (miscarriages, etc.)	14

In addition, 688 patients were attended on their discharge from hospital before the 14th day.

The number of visits paid were as follows :—

Morning visits	21,691
Evening visits	4,110
Pre-natal visits	7,964
Post-natal visits	3,978
Night calls	1,276

Total	<u>39,019</u>
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Gas and Air Analgesia

1,090 patients had " gas and air " analgesia administered by the midwives in their confinements. This represents 82.3% of home deliveries.

(a) When acting as a midwife..... 857

(b) When acting as a maternity nurse 233

All the municipal midwives are now qualified to administer analgesia.

Domiciliary Midwives Staff

	<i>Full-time.</i>	<i>Part-time</i>
Number on 1st January, 1958	18	1
Appointed during year	4	2
Left during year	5	.....
Number on 31st December, 1958	17	3

Two midwives attended a Refresher Course during the year.

Notifications from Midwives

The following notifications were received at the Health Department from domiciliary midwives :—

Sending for medical aid	424 (424 cases, 441 causes).
Intention to practise	35
Artificial feeding	124
Deaths : Mothers.....	1
Infants .....	.....
Still births	8

Medical Aid under Section 14 (i) of the Midwives Act, 1951.

The principal reasons for calling in medical aid were :—

(a) DOMICILIARY CASES :—

(1) *Mothers.*

Malpresentations, delayed or prolonged labour	64
Abortion or threatened abortion	9
Haemorrhage	40
Perineal rupture	97
Increased pulse and temperature	54
Toxaemia	15

Albuminuria, oedema, hypertension	32
Retained placenta	6
Phlebitis	7
Mastitis	11
Obstetric shock	14
Foetal distress	8
Other causes.....	11

(2) *Babies.*

Prematurity	4
Feebleness and jaundice.....	3
Discharging eyes	39
Deformities, injury	4
Cold	5
Rash	7
Vomiting	3
Asphyxia	1
Other causes.....	7

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(b) INSTITUTIONAL CASES WHERE MEDICAL AID WAS

SUMMONED, NUMBERED	230
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Total 671

Part II. Training School for Midwives

The following is a summary of the work :—

In training on 1st January, 1958	13
New Students during 1958	20
Still training on 31st December, 1958	10
Number of students who entered for Part II of the Board's Examination	23
Number of students who passed examination	22

Fifteen pupils completed training to administer “ gas and air ” analgesia.

ANTE-NATAL CARE.

(1) Ante-Natal Clinics

Three clinics are in use as follows :—

Municipal Clinic, Stanhope Parade.

“ Nook ” Assembly Hall, Cleadon and the

Community Centre Hut, Steward Crescent.

Number of sessions held during the year	288
Women attending	1,970
New Cases	1,868
Total attendances	11,678

(2) Defects found

The following defects were found among the mothers :—

Dental caries	276
Respiratory diseases	18
Varicose veins	215
Oedema	180
Albuminuria	73
Raised blood pressure.....	241
Glycosuria	15
Cardiac disease	41
Anaemia	66
Hyperemesis	45

Six patients were referred to the Chest Clinic.

(3) Rhesus Factor

773 specimens of blood from expectant mothers and 172 cord specimens from babies were examined for Rhesus Factor. 668 were Rhesus positive and 95 were negative. (Four mothers were admitted to hospital with active anti-bodies). One of the cord specimens from babies was positive. In addition, 42 specimens of blood were taken from fathers, 35 of which were positive and 7 negative.

(4) Wassermann Tests

1,039 routine Wassermann tests were carried out, of which 3 were positive results. 3 patients were referred to special clinics.

(5) Maternity Outfits

1,473 complete outfits were distributed to expectant mothers from the Health Department during 1958.

SECTION 24.—HEALTH VISITING.

At the end of the year 1958, there were :—

13 full time Health Visitors.

1 Student Health Visitor.

The health visitor being a medico-social worker as well as a health teacher continues to find her work extending in various fields. As she must now visit the family as a unit her help and advice is sought on every kind of subject. An initial visit to a child may result in advice to mother, father, grandparent, relative, etc.

Occasionally, she has to visit the home in the evening to talk to the father after work, on various subjects,—e.g. convince him of the advisability of immunisation, need of more thought and help for his wife and family, permission for wife's convalescent care, etc.

The following report for 1958 covers only certain aspects of her activities and indicates the considerable extent of the social element in her work.

Visiting of Children from 14 days to 5 years

During the year, routine visiting was carried out as usual but with more visiting to necessitous cases. The principle of selective visiting has thus been adhered to.

Tuberculosis Work

A health visitor is in attendance at the Chest Clinic every Tuesday and Thursday morning to interview patients with social problems, e.g. extra benefit from National Assistance : Housing : bedding, clothing, etc., For this purpose the staff of health visitors form a rota and serve three months each.

During 1958, a wider circle of contacts have been dealt with and these now include all relatives, neighbours, friends, work associates, etc. Other preventive work has comprised follow-up after B.C.G. of infants, the parents being urged to return to the Chest Clinic six weeks after immunisation. Health visitors are notified of dates and given attendance forms to distribute on their districts prior to the visit of the Mass X-ray Unit. Three monthly visiting of all active cases has been maintained.

Special Surveys from other local authority areas have been followed-up and visited when a person has moved into South Shields.

Moral Welfare

Close co-operation with the Moral Welfare Worker has been maintained. All children when placed for adoption are notified to Medical Officer of Health and health visitor visits and advises. Several unmarried mothers have been referred to our ante-natal clinic by the Moral Welfare Worker with a view to admission to Danesfield. Information is passed to the Superintendent Health Visitor by Miss Hedley when girls leave town with their babies.

Aged People

The work continues to be exacting and unfortunately old people are sometimes found alone, neglected and without care.

Other agencies approached include Welfare Department, District Nurse, Home Help, Public Health Inspector, National Assistance, Housing, W.V.S., etc. The health visitors themselves have helped to cleanse a number of old people sometimes by having them brought to the Health Department for baths. They have also received money from National Assistance Board and gone shopping for bedclothes and personal clothing—obtained beds and mattresses from some voluntary sources—interviewed general practitioners and relatives and made every effort to improve the circumstances in these cases.

A chiropody clinic initiated by voluntary organisations has been much appreciated, but as this only serves those who can attend a centre, a great need still exists for the housebound who need foot care and cannot have this. A domiciliary service would get some of these old people on their feet and make them more independent.

Hearing Testing

This is still carried out by the two health visitors who were originally trained. The children tested this year are fewer than last year due to the illness of one of the health visitors and the demands of other work especially polio vaccination. We hope at some future date that one room in the clinic will be made sound-proof as this is most desirable when carrying out tests.

In 1958 :—

16 children were tested, 4 returned for re-testing.

None needed further investigation.

The health visitors still invite mothers to attend with premature babies, or any child where there is a history of deafness in the family.

Marriage Guidance

The health visitors deal with many marital problems and give such advice and help as they can. A Marriage Guidance Clinic located in South Shields would be an advantage.

The nearest is Newcastle and one finds people are not eager to travel so far. Appointments have been made, but never kept. Sometimes the excuse is the journey or lack of co-operation of husband. The health visitors would feel it their duty to see that cases attended where appointments were made if the Marriage Guidance Clinic had a branch in South Shields.

Admissions and Discharges of Children treated in Hospital.

On discharge of children from hospital all of which are notified to the Department the health visitor visits only where necessary, e.g. tonsils and adenoids, premature infants and by special request of the Consultant Paediatrician.

It would be a great advantage if the health visitors were able to attend the children's wards at the two hospitals in South Shields. This was begun a few years ago but lapsed. The closer co-operation in this matter would benefit both doctor and health visitor and above all the child. The health visitor could give detailed accounts of home conditions before discharge of patients, and any previous medical history, etc.

Immunisation and Vaccination

Every effort is made to get all children inoculated against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, and vaccinated against Smallpox and Poliomyelitis.

Every child contact of a tuberculosis case is closely watched and the mother urged to have child treated with B.C.G. Vaccine.

During the polio vaccination drive the health visitors staffed evening clinics on a rota system and this proved most popular with the older group who were working during the day.

Prevention of Break-up of Families

This part of the health visitor's work continues to occupy much of her time and in many instances gives rise to considerable concern for the health and welfare of the children involved.

In a number of cases, anxiety stress and strain often cause near nervous breakdown in mothers. The health visitor tries to do something to prevent a critical situation arising and may take action in any of the following ways :—

1. Referring mother for convalescent care—arranging re care of children by relatives, Home Help, Children's Department.
2. Having talks with husbands—often at night when he returns from work.
3. Help re arranging admission of older child to Nursery School and in the case of younger children to Day Nursery.
4. Consulting Probation Officer and various other agencies to relieve the harassed parents.

Problem Families

These families require long and careful guidance especially on 1—Homecraft ; 2—Housekeeping ; 3—Budgeting.

Our aim is to keep the families together under one roof and if possible prevent eviction. Often the health visitor has no idea of a certain family having rent arrears until the Housing Department informs the Superintendent Health Visitor that they are due for eviction and perhaps have several children. This information enables the health visitor to go along to the parents and try to find some solution to their financial difficulties. When gas or electricity is cut off the health visitor arranges with the Electricity Board or Gas Board to restore supplies if money can be paid weekly to reduce their bills. Similarly when there are arrears in money owing on furniture and a threat to remove same, she makes approaches to the retailers and asks for time to reduce the arrears weekly.

This type of family needs propping up all their lives, as they cannot be independent and reliable. Family Service Units would be most welcome, but there are few if any operating in North East England.

Mental Health

Knowledge of Mental Health is most necessary to health visitors so that they can recognise the early signs of stress and strain and possibly take steps to prevent a complete breakdown.

There is close co-operation with Duly Authorised Officers especially in cases where there are children in homes of certified cases and the problem of care and disposal may arise as is illustrated by the following ; the Superintendent Health Visitor was called in to a young unmarried mother (baby 2 weeks) ; health visitor not happy about mother's mental condition : contacted general practitioner who called in a consultant psychiatrist. Miss Mycock took girl in to Cherry Knowles Hospital and arranged for care of baby in Gabbitas Nursery.

Health Education

The Mothers' Health Club which was instituted in 1957 and was described in the previous Annual Report was fully active in 1958. The membership remained at high level and a full programme of talks and discussions, etc., was held with excellent attendances.

The health visitors organised a comprehensive exhibition at the Corporation's 1958 Flower Show on the Prevention of Home Accidents. The stand which attracted a good deal of interest had for its main theme the use of non-inflammable material for clothing.

A public meeting was held in connection with the 'Guard the Fire' Campaign, in November, presided over by the Mayor of South Shields; short talks were given by Mr. A. Henderson, H.M. Coroner, Mr. Pillar, the Fire Prevention Officer and by the Supt. Health Visitor. Apart from the Home Helps Staff, there was a very small attendance of the public.

Other Health Education activities by the health visitors have continued in 1958.

During 1958 the Health Visitors paid the following visits to homes:

Expectant mothers : 1st Visits	571
Subsequent visits	49
Post-natal mothers	6
Children under 1 year of age : 1st visits	2,039
Subsequent visits	11,330
Children aged 1 and 2 years : visits	5,489
Children aged 2 to 5 years : visits	12,552
Visits re still births	37
,, infant deaths	40
,, adopted children	10
,, tuberculosis	1,850
,, other infectious diseases.....	793
,, admission to hospitals	897
,, B.C.G. vaccination	128
,, poliomyelitis vaccination	122
,, problem families	20
,, perinatal survey	14

SECTION 25—HOME NURSING SERVICE

This service is carried out on behalf of the Corporation by the South Shields and District Nursing Association. It has a separate administration and is not under the control of the Department.

The following is a summary of the work of the Association, the figures being kindly supplied by the Superintendent :—

Cases on books at 1st January, 1958	342
New cases—Medical	1,001
Surgical	191
Tuberculosis	33
Maternal complications	18
Ear, Nose and Throat	51
Carcinoma	136
Pneumonia	66
Diabetes	16
Cerebral conditions	101
	————— 1,613
Visits paid by nurses	47,867
Patients over 65 years of age	781
Children under 5 years of age	42
Patients who had more than 24 visits during the year	751
Patients receiving penicillin injections.....	383
Patients receiving streptomycin injections.....	295
Cases remaining on books at 31st December, 1958	306

In 1958, of 1,613 new patients 9.6% (155) were referred by hospitals directly. Certain other patients discharged from hospital are also referred to the service through the family doctor.

It is also difficult to say how far the care given by home nurses is actually rendering hospital treatment unnecessary although during the year complete courses of streptomycin were administered by the nurses to 295 patients in their own homes and courses of penicillin were given to 383 patients.

SECTION 26—VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination against Smallpox

Of the 2,065 births occurring in 1957, and surviving on 31st December, 1957—835 infants (39.7%) were successfully vaccinated by the 31st December, 1958.

Of children surviving at 12 months of age :—

From 1920 to 1929	43.1%	were successfully vaccinated
From 1930 to 1939	38.8%	were successfully vaccinated
From 1940 to 1948 (4th July)	41.4%	were successfully vaccinated.
From 5th July, 1948 to 1949	10.0%	were successfully vaccinated.
From 1950 to end of 1957	26.5%	were successfully vaccinated.

During 1958—961 vaccinations (437 by private practitioners and 524 by our medical officers) and 211 re-vaccinations (200 by private practitioners and 11 by our medical officers) were carried out.

The following figures show the numbers of successful vaccinations or re-vaccinations carried out during the past seven years :—

VACCINATIONS.	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Under 1 year old	354	444	592	525	567	819	756
One year old	14	18	27	23	18	25	20
2 to 4 years	32	33	18	25	14	34	26
5 to 14 years	39	29	23	27	27	33	37
Over 15 years	111	108	61	59	72	87	122
Total Vaccinations	550	632	721	659	698	998	961

RE-VACCINATIONS.	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
2 to 4 years .....	.....	8	7	7	9	12	3
5 to 14 years	19	9	26	21	10	30	18
Over 15 years	147	190	136	123	162	188	190
<hr/>							
Total Re-vaccinations	166	207	169	151	181	230	211
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Vaccinations of infants have shown a moderate increase in 1957 and 1958, . Nevertheless, it is estimated that not more than 6.0% of the total population have been vaccinated during the past 7 years. As South Shields is a sea port visited by all nationalities, the gravity of the position is apparent.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

1,481 children were immunised during 1958, of these 1,118 were immunised by medical officers of the Health Department.

In addition, 999 children had reinforcing innoculations (908 by medical officers of the Health Department). It was estimated that at the end of 1958, 87.5% of the school children in the Borough and 66.1% of children under 5 years of age, had been immunised.

For some time it has been agreed that, because individual immunity tends to wane with the passage of time, an assessment of the extent to which a local population has been protected must take into account the proportion of children who have had a course of immunisation within the last five years. These figures are given under para. A, of the following table. Para. D, gives the resultant index, which is the percentage of children immunised during the past 5 years. This is still far from satisfactory especially with regard to babies under twelve months and parents are urged in the interests of their children to ensure that immunisation and later re-inforcing immunisation is carried out.

I. IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of children at 31st December, 1958, who have completed a course of Immunisation *at any time* between 1st January, 1944 and 31st December, 1958.

Age on 31.12.1958 (i.e. born in year)	Under 1 1958	1—4 1954—1957	5—9 1949—1953	10—14 1944—1948	Under 15 Total
A—Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1954—1958.....	430	5,374	5,524	3,389	14,717
B—Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1953 or earlier ....	..	..	1,866	5,150	7,016
C—Estimated mid-year child population	2,050	7,750	18,200		28,000
D—Immunity Index 100 A/C	21.0	69.4	49.0		52.6

The annual number of cases and deaths from diphtheria in *England and Wales* since the National Immunisation Campaign was launched in 1940, are as follows :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
1940	36,281	2,480
1941	50,797	2,641
1942	41,404	1,827
1943	34,662	1,371
1944	23,199	934
1945	18,596	722
1946	11,986	472
1947	5,609	244
1948	3,575	156
1949	1,890	84
1950	962	49
1951	664	33
1952	376	32
1953	266	20
1954	173	8
1955	155	12
1956	53	3
1957	37	4
1958	*80	*8

*Provisional figures.

The following table shows the annual number of cases of diphtheria in *South Shields* and the number of deaths and children immunised since *the campaign began here in 1938* :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cases</i>	<i>*Deaths</i>	<i>Children (under 15) Immunised</i>
1938	598	61	4,649
1939	493	44	11,441
1940	187	25	12,882
1941	183	25	13,226
1942	201	17	15,998
1943	234	18	17,140
1944	178	8	17,651
1945	125	7	17,881
1946	77	2	17,527
1947	60	2	17,647
1948	50	2	18,070
1949	20	2	18,947
1950	5	1	19,357
1951	3	None	20,000
1952	None	None	20,143
1953	None	None	20,450
1954	None	None	20,740
1955	None	None	21,116
1956	None	None	21,266
1957	None	None	21,597
1958	None	None	21,733

*None of the patients who died from diphtheria had been immunised.

Whooping Cough Immunisation

1,390 children were immunised against whooping cough during the year; 1,383 combined with diphtheria prophylactic and 7 whooping cough vaccine alone.

The ages of the children were as follows :—

<i>Age</i>	<i>Combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria</i>	<i>Whooping Cough only</i>	<i>Total</i>
0+	400	2	402
1+	784	4	788
2+	83	.....	83
3+	29	1	30
4+	22	.....	22
5+	45	.....	45
6+	14	.....	14
7+	1	.....	1
8+	3	.....	3
9+	.....	.....	.....
10+	.....	.....	.....
11+	2	.....	2
12+	.....	.....	.....
13+	.....	.....	.....
14+	.....	.....	.....
Totals	<u>1,383</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1,390</u>

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Circulars 20 and 69/58 of the Ministry of Health extended the age groups of persons who could be vaccinated to those born in the years 1933 to 1942, to certain Health Service Staffs and their families and provided for a third injection in all cases at least seven months after second injection. The supply of Vaccine was on a much more liberal scale and by the end of December, 1958, the vaccination state, including 611 who had received two injections in 1956 or 1957, was as follows :—

Year of Birth	1956	1957	1958			Total persons with one or more injec'ns <i>a, b, & c</i>
	Second injection	Second injection	First injection	Second injection	Third injection	
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>e</i>	
1933	..	..	81	60	..	81
1934	..	..	119	99	..	119
1935	..	..	135	105	1	135
1936	..	..	118	99	..	118
1937	..	..	112	82	..	112
1938	..	..	167	138	..	167
1939	..	..	164	134	..	164
1940	..	..	160	142	..	160
1941	..	..	228	194	..	228
1942	..	..	283	242	1	283
1943	..	..	931	896	498	931
1944	..	..	1,191	1,173	676	1,191
1945	..	..	1,167	1,136	844	1,167
1946	..	27	1,396	1,326	914	1,423
1947	6	60	1,629	1,622	1,019	1,695
1948	12	63	1,455	1,455	1,178	1,530
1949	7	60	1,419	1,411	1,060	1,486
1950	6	74	1,347	1,326	823	1,427
1951	8	62	1,279	1,275	791	1,349
1952	15	53	1,254	1,174	509	1,322
1953	18	73	1,182	1,132	670	1,273
1954	11	39	1,252	1,172	811	1,302
1955	..	8	1,172	1,093	474	1,180
1956	..	1	1,256	1,144	491	1,257
1957	..	..	1,169	1,024	237	1,169
1958	..	..	81	70	15	81

Poliomyelitis Vaccination—Table continued.

Doctors and relatives (adults)	..	8	60	43	2	68
Ambulance Drivers and relatives (adults)	..	..	40	30	..	40
Expectant mothers	..	..	390	298	7	390
Hospital Staff (and relatives)	..	..	25	23	..	25
Total	83	528	21,262	20,118	11,021	21,873

A total of 51,849 injections were carried out at 462 sessions during the year (either by our own Medical Officers or by private practitioners working on a sessional basis). This included 66 evening sessions to suit those working and also school children for their third injections. In addition, 552 injections were given by private practitioners at their own surgeries or by hospital staff.

It was estimated that at the end of the year, one or more injections had been given to 56.9% of available children under 5, 81.3% of children 5/14 and 10% of those aged 15/25 years of age. The response of the latter group was rather disappointing as every avenue was probed to increase the acceptance rate—advertising in newspaper, public posters, posters in buses, places of work and youth organisations, while evening sessions were made available to suit their requirements and also “open” sessions where they could register and receive the first injection at the same time.

The position however, with regard to the 15-25 year olds improved dramatically in April, 1959, when young adults presented themselves for vaccination in large numbers at that time.

SECTION 27—AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The following is a statement of the work of the Ambulance Service during 1958 :—

	<i>By Ambulance</i>	<i>By sitting Case Cars</i>
(1) PATIENTS		
Removals to or from addresses in South Shields	30,273	228
Removals to or from addresses outside South Shields	5,307	334
Total patients	<u>35,580</u>	<u>562</u>
(2) JOURNEYS		
Journeys with patients in South Shields....	8,632	79
Journeys with patients outside South Shields	2,175	201
Accidents and Emergencies	1,654	.....
Infectious Disease cases	157	.....
Midwives with Analgesia Apparatus.....	2,378	26
Other journeys.....	176	7
Total journeys	<u>15,172</u>	<u>313</u>
(3) MILEAGE		
Mileage in South Shields	100,605	1,450
Mileage outside South Shields	62,290	9,062
Total mileage	<u>162,895</u>	<u>10,512</u>

At the end of the year there were in service 10 ambulances and 1 car. There were 25 driver-attendants, one ambulance superintendent and one telephone operator.

(4) COSTS

The cost of the service for the year ending 31st March, 1958, was £29,120. three shillings and five pence per vehicle mile. Corresponding figures for previous year were £29,623 and three shillings and seven pence per vehicle mile.

In 1958 each journey averaged 11.2 miles and 2.3 patients were carried as compared with 10.7 miles and 2.3 patients for 1957.

AMBULANCE SERVICE — 1951 to 1958

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
NO. OF PATIENTS—								
In South Shields	27,343	26,210	25,462	32,428	32,676	31,384	30,873	30,501
Out of South Shields	2,898	3,526	4,316	5,049	5,359	5,458	4,458	5,641
TOTAL.....	30,241	29,736	29,778	37,477	38,035	36,842	35,331	36,142
NO. OF JOURNEYS—								
In South Shields	13,776	12,478	12,247	13,384	13,436	12,774	13,190	13,109
Out of South Shields	1,331	1,623	2,008	2,201	2,059	2,183	2,067	2,376
TOTAL.....	15,107	14,101	14,255	15,585	15,495	14,957	15,257	15,485
MILEAGE—								
In South Shields	81,887	81,574	82,640	95,516	99,191	102,485	100,260	102,055
Out of South Shields	43,094	54,244	58,293	66,544	67,931	70,286	63,537	71,352
TOTAL.....	124,981	135,818	140,933	162,060	167,122	172,771	163,797	173,407
Miles per Patient	4.1	4.6	4.7	4.3	4.4	4.7	4.6	4.8

Long distance transport of patients

An increasing demand is being made upon the ambulance service for the long distance transport of patients. In the interests of the comfort of patients, arrangements are made when possible to forward the patient by main line train, and with the co-operation of ambulance services in other areas to have the patient conveyed from home to train, and on arrival at destination, from train to hospital or private address. In 1958, 22 patients were sent by ambulance/rail service on long distance journeys.

In each case, the British Railways Passenger Department was very helpful in reserving train accommodation not only from Newcastle, but also, where patients had to change trains, from other centres. Difficulties have arisen owing to the introduction on some rail services of diesel rail cars in which the accommodation is not suitable for stretcher patients. Here again British Railways have been of assistance in suggesting alternative routes. Ambulance services in other areas co-operated fully in ensuring the minimum delay and discomfort to the patient ; and this method of transport was much quicker and cheaper than sending the patient by road all the way. Escorts were provided when necessary, and blankets, hot water bottles, etc., were supplied for the patient's comfort.

Patients are also sent regularly from local hospitals to convalescent homes in Silloth and Ilkley by this road-rail method.

SECTION 28.—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

Recuperative Holidays

Recuperative holidays in approved convalescent homes are arranged for invalids by the Local Authority for persons who are recommended by the family doctor for this form of care, and who are unable otherwise to obtain such treatment. During 1958, 81 applications—16 males, 65 females—were made; these requests came from general practitioners, almoners and health visitors. Thirteen of the applicants were not able to take advantage of the arrangements made for them, but 68 patients had a holiday as follows :—

In the Proctor Home, Shotley Bridge	46
The Leazes, Wolsingham	8
Richardson Home, Barnard Castle	11
Rose Joicey Home, Whitburn	2
Maitland Home, Frinton	1
Two weeks holiday	50
Three weeks holiday	10
Four weeks holiday.....	4
Under two weeks.....	4

Age of patients :—

Under 25 years	5
25—45 years	12
46—65 years	33
Over 65	18

The conditions necessitating a recuperative holiday were :—

Debility.....	17	Myocarditis	3
Bronchitis	14	Hypertension	3
Post-operation	7	Domestic stress	3
Arthritis	5	Neuritis	2
Asthma	4	Anaemia	2
Neurosis	4	Kidney disease	1
Post pneumonia	3		

The gross cost of these holidays to the Local Authority was £424, and the amount recoverable from patients was £27. Eight patients had a total of 20 week's holiday in the Leazes, Wolsingham, through the co-operation of the South West Durham Hospital Management Committee, at no cost to the Corporation.

Among the problems encountered in this service were patients described as suffering from 'domestic stress'. These include women who are feeling the strain of nursing a sick husband ; women bringing up a large family ; cases of marital discord. Some of the cases referred to as 'debility' come within this group, and it is difficult to find the right convalescent accommodation at a time to suit the patient and then to persuade the patient to leave her problems behind her and take advantage of the holiday.

An increasing number of requests for recuperative holidays is made each year on behalf of elderly people. Convalescent homes are usually unwilling to accept patients over 65 years of age, but by liaison between the department and matrons of convalescent homes 18 persons over the age of 65 were accepted last year.

Sick Room Requisites

851 articles were lent during the year, as follows :—

Bed Pans	179
Air Cushions.....	144
Invalid Chairs	38
Rubber Sheets	193
Bed rests	103
Crutches (pairs)	5
Urinals	75
Air Beds	1
Dunlop mattresses	21
Leg Cages	12
Rubber Bed Pans	37
Spinal Carriages	4
Commodes	24
Tripod Sticks	4
Bed and Mattress	3
Walking Sticks	3
Lifting Poles	3
Hoist and Hammock	1
Sterilizer	1
	<hr/>
	851
	<hr/>

Deposits and charges amounted to £90 4s. 6d.

Sick room requisites are also issued by the St. John Ambulance Brigade (Nursing Division) from their Headquarters in Westoe Village.

TUBERCULOSIS

Incidence of Tuberculosis

No. of South Shields residents on the tuberculosis notification register on 1st January, 1958.....	1,185
Cases notified during 1958.....	155
Non-notified fatal cases	1
Notified posthumously .....	.....
Cases re-admitted to register.....	10
“ Inward ” Transfers	16
	1,367

Cases removed from register :—

Deaths from tuberculosis or other causes	29
Left the town	33
Two years untraced .....	.....
Three years free (non-respiratory)	11
Five years free (respiratory)	215
Wrong diagnosis or Notification withdrawn	6
Not requiring further assistance .....	.....
	294

Number of cases on register at end of 1958..... 1,073

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Respiratory	560	412	972
Non-respiratory	56	45	101
	616	457	1,073

There was a decrease of 112 cases on the register on the 31st December as compared with the 1st January, 1958.

Of the 155 cases notified there were :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Respiratory	80	67	147
Non-respiratory	4	4	8

The following table shows the number of “ new cases ” (including the 1 un-notified) classified according to age.

AGE GROUP	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year .....	.....	2	1	.....
1+ years	2	.....	.....	.....
2— 4 years	1	3	.....	.....
5— 9 years	1	4	.....	.....
10—14 years	5	3	1	.....
15—19 years	7	11	1	1
20—24 years	9	14	.....	1
25—34 years	9	11	.....	1
35—44 years	12	10	.....	.....
45—54 years	16	6	1	1
55—64 years	10	2	.....	.....
65—74 years	6	2	.....	.....
75+ years	2	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL	80	68	4	4

These figures include one Arab, a man of 52, non-respiratory ; and two children of Arabs, girls aged 15 and 24 years, both respiratory.

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified or ascertained during each of the past ten years is as follows :—

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
NOTIFIED :—										
Respiratory	188	166	206	232	237	176	178	148	158	147
Non-respiratory	36	35	36	24	23	20	15	10	10	8
NOT NOTIFIEDED : :—										
Respiratory	10	1	4	4	3	2	2	2	3	1
Non-respiratory	2	1	1	.....	1	1	.....	1	.....	.....
Total	236	203	247	260	264	199	195	161	171	156
Notification rate	2.18	1.86	2.31	2.43	2.46	1.85	1.81	1.40	1.58	1.44
Cases per 100 deaths	207	303	588	406	754	524	813	805	900	867

During 1958, 156 new cases of tuberculosis were notified or otherwise ascertained in the County Borough, 15 less than in 1957. Of these, 148 were respiratory and 8 in which the disease affected organs other than the lungs. The notification rate was 1.44 per 1,000 of the population (1.36 respiratory and 0.08 non-respiratory).

A comparison of the notification rates for the neighbouring authorities is as follows :—

<i>South Shields</i>	1.44 per 1,000
Gateshead C.B.	1.21 „
Sunderland C.B.	1.1 „
Newcastle upon Tyne	1.26 „
Tynemouth C.B.	0.84 „
Durham County	0.69 „
Northumberland County	0.63 „

**Age and Sex of Cases on Notification Register
as on 31st December, 1958.**

Age Groups	MALES		FEMALES		Total
	Respiratory	Non-respiratory	Respiratory	Non-respiratory	
0- 4 years	7	3	8	.....	18
5- 9 years	15	5	18	3	41
10-14 years	23	6	23	5	57
15-19 years	31	10	37	8	86
20-24 years	50	8	76	6	140
25-29 years	47	4	60	4	115
30-34 years	44	3	54	5	106
35-39 years	67	5	51	4	127
40-44 years	40	4	21	3	68
45-49 years	49	2	20	2	73
50-54 years	59	3	21	1	84
55-59 years	45	1	9	1	56
60-64 years	43	1	5	.....	49
65-69 years	29	1	5	2	37
70-74 years	8	..	4	1	13
75-79 years	2	..	..	..	2
80-84 years	1	..	..	..	1
Totals	560	56	412	45	1,073

Mortality

Tuberculosis caused 18 deaths during 1958 : 17 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory. This represents a death rate of 0.17 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 0.18 for 1957.

The death rate in South Shields from tuberculosis during the past ten years was as follows :—

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Respiratory	0.98	0.55	0.35	0.59	0.30	0.32	0.20	0.17	0.17	0.16
Non-respiratory	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01

The following table sets out a comparison of the death rates of neighbouring authorities, for all forms of tuberculosis :—

England and Wales.....	0.11
<i>South Shields</i> C.B.	0.17
Gateshead C.B.	0.20
Sunderland C.B.	0.11
Newcastle upon Tyne	0.11
Tynemouth C.B.	0.07
 Durham County	 0.13
Northumberland County	0.07

Contacts examined at Chest Clinic

1. New cases notified as Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	119
2. New contact examinations	653
3. Contact examinations per notifications	5.4
4. Contacts notified Respiratory Tuberculosis	25
5. Total notifications (headings 1 & 4)	144
6. Percentage of heading 4 in heading 2	3.8
7. Percentage of heading 4 in heading 5	17.3

Contacts tested at Chest Clinic

No. tuberculin tested	345
Results —positive	71
„ —negative	274
	345
No. vaccinated with B.C.G.	241

B.C.G. Vaccination

The scheme for the vaccination of contacts of cases of tuberculosis by the Chest Physician commenced in the latter part of 1951, and that for the vaccination of “ 13 year olds ” by the medical staff of the Public Health Department commenced in the early part of 1954, since when a total of 4,779 children have been vaccinated with Bacillus Calmette—Guerin vaccine as follows :—

B.C.G. Vaccinations in South Shields

Year of Birth	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	Total
1958	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	64	64
1957	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	57	35	92
1956	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	82	16	14	112
1955	.....	.....	.....	.....	61	9	8	16	94
1954	.....	.....	.....	71	15	7	5	13	111
1953	.....	.....	43	16	10	4	6	17	96
1952	.....	23	15	11	6	4	8	13	80
1951	3	13	7	7	5	3	7	9	54
1950	2	17	2	9	3	9	4	15	61
1949	1	11	6	4	8	4	3	9	46
1948	.....	18	2	4	5	3	6	7	45
1947	1	11	1	1	9	5	7	12	47
1946	.....	6	4	2	3	2	4	6	27
1945	1	1	1	3	1	4	4	*814	829
1944	.....	6	.....	.....	3	8	*864	2	883
1943	1	2	.....	.....	7	*801	.....	.....	811
1942	2	.....	1	1	*651	1	.....	.....	656
1941	.....	.....	3	*647	1	.....	.....	.....	651
1940	.....	2	.....	1	4	.....	.....	1	8
1939	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
1938	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Others	.....	1	3	.....	1	.....	.....	3	8
Total	12	113	89	777	793	946	999	1,050	4,779

*Vaccinated by Staff of Public Health Department under Circular 22/53.

Mass Radiography

I am indebted to Dr. J. Reginald Beal, Medical Director of Mass Radiography Unit No. 2 for the following details :—

The unit operated in South Shields and District for 14 weeks during 1958.

11,643 miniature films were taken, the weekly average being 832 examinees.

The number of active cases of tuberculosis found was 42 equivalent to a percentage of 0.36.

Special Housing Scheme

202 houses have been allocated to overcrowded tuberculous families in the past, 2 of which were allocated this year. The present state of these families is as follows :—28 of the cases have died, 83 have been 5 or more years free (disease arrested), 6 left the town, 9 moved out of council houses and 76 still remain as active cases. Many other families in which there is a case of tuberculosis have qualified under the Council's "points" scheme which allows extra 6 or 10 points in certain cases upon special certificate of the Medical Officer of Health, and in all, there are 544 families in which 592 patients are suffering from the disease living in houses on the Council's housing estates.

Resettlement

With the increasing number of tuberculous patients now considered fit for work, it has been found easier, and also quicker for the patients, to refer them at once to the Disablement Resettlement Officer instead of collecting them for special sessions.

Dietary Supplements

Six patients were supplied with one pint of milk daily, amounting in all to 239 gallons.

After-Care.

The Almoner resigned at the end of March, 1958, and the medico-social work was carried on for the remainder of the year on a part-time basis by a rota of Health Visitors.

During the year, 169 patients were seen for the first time, in addition to 142 who returned for further advice and assistance. The chief problem encountered was housing; 87 patients were advised and where possible additional housing points were given or special representation was made to the Housing Department. During the year, 13 of these families were rehoused in Council houses and several obtained accommodation in larger privately-owned houses.

Thirty-two patients were referred to the National Assistance Board for additional help; eight to the Resettlement Officer of the Ministry of Labour to be considered for light employment; five to the W.V.S. and one to the Tyneside Council of Social Service for help with clothing, etc. In five urgent cases financial assistance was given from the "Almoner's Fund", and one special reading appliance was supplied from this fund.

Advice in marital and domestic problems was given in 14 cases, some of which were passed to the Probation Officer. Liaison was maintained with officers of all the authorities referred to above, and with personnel officers of local factories regarding X-ray examinations of contacts of notified cases of tuberculosis among employees. In addition, the Health Visitor kept in touch with other officers of the Corporation—the Home Help Supervisor, the Children's Officer, and the Welfare and Blind Welfare Officers—whose assistance was called upon from time to time.

VENEREAL DISEASES

The following table shows in detail the cases dealt with at the South Shields centre for the first time during each of the past ten years.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Syphilis	122	93	81	79	39	32	18	22	14	14
Gonorrhoea	166	160	102	153	137	94	70	57	85	82
Other conditions	544	490	366	413	338	352	276	259	302	232
Total	832	743	549	645	514	478	364	338	401	328

The cases dealt with for the first time exclude the following numbers of patients who were known to have had treatment for the same infection at other centres, in Service Hospitals or by general practitioners approved by the Ministry of Health under Circular 2226 :—

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Syphilis	60	46	39	28	17	12	4	10	5	2
Gonorrhoea	23	29	14	18	6	8	8	3	11	8
Other conditions	36	14	6	10	5	1	3	..	5	5
Total	119	89	59	56	28	21	15	13	21	15

The following table shows the attendances at the South Shields centre during the past 10 years :—

Year	Total	Male	Female
1949.....	8,746	4,534	4,212
1950	8,078	4,192	3,886
1951.....	7,266	3,530	3,736
1952.....	9,072	4,084	4,988
1953.....	6,705	3,309	3,396
1954.....	5,769	2,763	3,006
1955.....	4,370	1,948	2,422
1956.....	4,484	2,198	2,286
1957.....	4,209	2,389	1,820
1958.....	3,288	1,788	1,500

Total cases treated at the South Shields centre during 1958, including cases who had continued treatment from 1957 :—

	Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	46	48	94
Gonorrhoea	100	21	121
Other conditions	254	27	281

Disposal of Cases.

	Syphilis		Gonorrhoea		Other Conditions	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under treatment or observation, 1/1/58	34	41	25	6	44	..
Old cases returning for treatment	2	1	..	..	..	..
Transferred from other centres ..	1	1	8	..	5	..
New cases	9	5	67	15	205	27
Completed treatment	11	13	53	13	223	27
Transferred elsewhere	5	1	15	1	2	..
Not completed treatment	6	..	2	..	2	..
Under treatment or observation, 31/12/58	24	34	30	7	27	..

Non-residents were treated at the centre from 21 countries other than England and Wales and from 11 administrative counties and 16 County Boroughs as well as a number of Displaced Persons and members of H.M. Forces.

South Shields Cases under treatment at other centres

	<i>Syphilis</i>	<i>Gonorrhoea</i>	<i>Other Con- ditions</i>	<i>Total Cases</i>
Sunderland	7	1	3	11
Total	7	1	3	11

SECTION 29. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This service, first established in 1948, has steadily expanded each year. At the beginning of 1958 there were 716 cases on the register; at the end of the year the number of cases was 735, an increase of 2.6%.

During 1958, a total of 1,009 households received help, as compared with 901 in 1957. The details are as follows :—

	<i>Households</i>		<i>Hours given</i>	
	1957	1958	1957	1958
Aged Persons	716	834	122,966	147,809
Maternity cases	73	61	5,021	3,664
Tuberculosis	10	6	2,395	682
Other cases	102	108	10,484	12,295
Total	901	1,009	140,866	164,450

It will be seen that about 83% of the cases receiving help were elderly people. Much of the supervisor's time is given to the study of the particular needs of the aged; each case is carefully assessed and domestic help is provided in such a way that the burden is lightened as far as possible. In many cases the home help's hours of attendance are staggered; she attends in the early morning, at lunch time, and again at tea time and in the evening, and in some instances also on Saturday and Sunday. Not only are the meals provided in an attractive form and the other domestic duties dealt with, but in addition by spreading her attendance hours in the home of an aged person, living alone, the home help provides a partial answer to one of the problems of old age—loneliness.

The supervisor takes care in selecting home helps who attend the aged to choose those women who not only are competent to deal with the domestic work but who also have sympathy and tact. It is pleasing to record that many of the home helps take great pride in this work, and in their service to the aged go far beyond the duties expected of them.

The requirements of the aged vary considerably as between aged couples, aged men living alone, and aged women living alone. In addition to the assessment of the needs of each new applicant, existing cases are regularly reviewed from time to time. This entails a great deal of work on the part of the supervisor and her assistant, but ensures that the maximum service is provided consistent with the most economical use of the service.

Sometimes it is found that because of physical incapacity or illness, the home of a new applicant is in a very neglected state. In such cases two home helps, working with cleaning materials provided by the department, thoroughly clean the home, making it easier for the regular home help to maintain a state of cleanliness. If necessary, the house is sprayed by a public health inspector for eradication of vermin.

The supervisor has occasionally visited hospitals to see aged patients about to be discharged, reassured them that home help will be provided, taken charge of keys, money, etc., so that food-stuffs could be bought and a meal ready for the patient on her return home. The supervisor also maintains liaison with relatives living away from the town, sending them reports on the aged patient's health and progress, etc.

In the evening of their life, many of the old people have little left except their independence and their pride in their home. It is the constant aim of the service to assist in preserving these, and apart from the humanitarian aspect, the help given by the service means that in many cases old people are kept in their homes who would otherwise probably have to be cared for in an aged persons hostel or a geriatric unit. The financial saving to the community must be considerable.

Staff

(a) At 31st December, 1957.

1 Supervisor.

1 assistant supervisor. 1 clerk.

4 full time and 144 part time home helps.

(b) At 31st December, 1958.

1 supervisor.

1 assistant supervisor. 1 clerk.

3 full-time and 178 part-time home helps.

Liaison with other Agencies

There was frequent communication with the National Assistance Board over individual cases and similarly with the Welfare and Children's Departments of the Corporation. There was also regular contact with general practitioners, the District Nursing Association, hospital almoner, W.V.S., and Red Cross. In the department itself, there was daily consultation with the Superintendent Health Visitor, and her staff and of course regular liaison with other sections, such as mental welfare officers.

SECTION 51.—MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

There now appears little doubt that the new Mental Health Bill will include the main proposals contained in the Report made by the Royal Commission on the Law relating to Mental Illness and Mental Deficiency and the Local Authority will be called upon to accept the opportunity and responsibility for expanding its services to the mentally disordered.

Such services will include the provision of residential accommodation, training facilities for all age groups, expansion in the field of pre-care, after-care, and social work in general.

The aged mentally infirm continue to present a problem, they represent a large percentage of the admissions to Hospital but it is hoped that under the new recommendations the situation will be greatly relieved by the provision of Hostel accommodation in suitable cases.

During the year the need for Hospital accommodation was maintained at a steady level, no difficulty was experienced in obtaining accommodation for patients of either sex, thanks to the co-operation received from the Medical Staffs of the various Hospitals.

The number of cases requiring pre-care or after-care continues to increase and so proportionately does the time devoted to such cases by the D.A.O's. As the recommendations of the Royal Commission regard the development and expansion of this service as being of major importance the question of appointing additional staff may have to be considered in the near future.

Patients Admitted to Hospital by D.A.O's, 1958

TO CHERRY KNOWLES HOSPITAL, RYHOPE

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Certified under Section 16 Lunacy Act, 1890 (Certified patients).....	4	15	19
Under Section 20, Lunacy Act, 1890	1	4	5
Under Section 21 (1) Lunacy Act, 1890 .....	.....	.....	.....
Under Section 1 Mental Treatment Act, 1930 (Voluntary patients)	32	36	68
Total	37	55	92

Males. Females. Total.

TO GENERAL HOSPITAL, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Under Section 20 Lunacy Act, 1890 (D.A.O's 3 Day Order)	73	78	151
Under Section 31(1) Lunacy Act, 1890 (Justices 14 day Order)	5	7	12
Total	78	85	163

TO ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, STANNINGTON.

Under Section 16 Lunacy Act, 1890 (Certified Patients)	1	2	3
Under Section 1 Mental Treatment Act (Voluntary patients)	1	.....	1
Total	2	2	4

TO ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, MORPETH.

Under Section 16, Lunacy Act, 1890 (Certified patients)	1	.....	1
Under Section 1 Mental Treatment Act 1930 (Voluntary patients)	1	.....	1
	2	.....	2

The total number of cases admitted to hospital in 1958, through the D.A.O's was 261, which is the same as for 1957.

Number of cases brought to the notice of the Duly Authorised Officers during 1958 :—

New cases	168
Old cases	109
Total	277

Under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930, by duly authorised officers.

HOSPITAL	Admitted			Discharged			Died			No. of Patients in hospital on 31/12/58	
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.		
General Hospital, South Shields	78	83	161	78	83	161	..	..	..	1	7
Cherry Knowles, Ryhope.....	37	57	94	36	44	80	2	2	4	46	112
St. Mary's, Stannington	2	2	4	2	1	3	4	5	9	68	132
Oakwood, Maidstone .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
St. George's, Morpeth	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Winterton Hospital, Sedgfield	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Totals	119	142	261	116	128	244	6	7	13	118	256

The following table classifies the patients resident at the end of the year : (1958).

HOSPITAL	MALES		FEMALES	
	Cert.	Vol.	Cert.	Total
General Hospital, South Shields	1	..	6	7
St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington	52	16	48	132
Cherry Knowles Hospital, Ryhope	28	18	32	112
St. George's Hospital, Morpeth	1	1	1	3
Winterton Hospital, Sedgfield	1	..	..	1
Oakwood, Maidstone .....	..	..	1	1
	83	35	88	256

Total Male Patients 118
Total Female Patients 138

Mental Deficiency

The numbers of cases reported under Sec. 57(3) & (5) of the Education Act, 1944, during the year were 15, and 6 respectively. Sect. 57(3) cases were thus increased by 9 over the previous year.

Supervisory visits were made to all active cases in the community, and more frequent visitation was carried out in cases presenting special problems.

Accommodation in Mental Deficiency Hospitals especially for young children, continues to be scarce, but with the additional accommodation which is expected to become available at Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital, this situation should improve in the future.

Training Centre

The part-time centre at the Nook Hall has maintained an excellent attendance. The special transport arrangements and mid-day meals (Thursday and Friday) are still in practice. Examinations of the children by the School Medical Officer and Dental Officer were carried out during the year.

In June, a second Assistant Supervisor was appointed and the children under sixteen separated into two groups.

A public exhibition was held in December, comprising training equipment and handwork, used and completed in the Centre.

During the year two children were admitted to Prudhoe Hall Colony.

The following figures give details of the numbers on the register, December, 1958 :—

UNDER 16 YEARS :

Males	11
Females.....	10

OVER 16 YEARS :

Males	1
Females.....	9

Total	<u>31</u>
-------------	-----------

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938

	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. <i>Particulars of cases reported during 1958</i>				
(a) Cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" :— Number in which action taken on reports by				
(1) Local Education Authorities on Children :				
(i) While at school or liable to attend school	8	7	..	..
(ii) On leaving special schools .....	..	..	5	1
(iii) On leaving ordinary schools .....	..	..	..	..
(2) Police or by Courts .....	..	..	2	2
(3) Other sources .....	..	..	..	..
Total of 1 (a)	8	7	7	3
(b) Cases reported who were found to be defectives but were not regarded as "subject to be dealt with" on any ground .....	..	..	..	..
(c) Cases reported who were not regarded as defectives and are thus excluded from (a) or (b) .....	..	..	..	..
(d) Cases reported in which action was incomplete at 31st December, 1958, and are thus excluded from (a) or (b)	2	2	..	..
Total of 1 (a)—(d) inclusive ..	10	9	7	3
2. <i>Disposal of cases reported during 1958</i> (The total of 2 (a), (b) and (c) must agree with that of 1 (a) and (b) above)				
(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" (i.e., at 1 (a)), number :				
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision ..	8	7	4	1
(ii) Placed under Guardianship .....	..	..	..	..
(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety" .....	..	..	..	..
(iv) Admitted to Hospitals .....	..	..	2	2
Total of 2 (a)	8	7	6	3
(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" (i.e. at 1 (b)), number :				
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision ..	..	..	..	..
(ii) Action unnecessary .....	..	..	..	..
Total of 2 (b) .....	..	..	..	..

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938—continued

	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
(c) Cases reported at 1 (a) or (b) above who removed from the area or died before disposal was arranged .....	..	..	1	..
Total of 2 (a)—(c) inclusive....	8	7	7	3
<hr/>				
3. Number of mental defectives for whom care was arranged by the local health authority under Circular 5/52 during 1958 and admitted to				
(a) National Health Service hospitals	1	..	1	3
(b) Elsewhere .....	..	..	..	..
Total	1	..	1	3
<hr/>				
4. Total cases on Authority's Registers at 31/12/58				
(i) Under Statutory Supervision	24	18	54	46
(ii) Under Guardianship .....	..	..	..	..
(iii) In "Places of Safety" .....	..	..	..	..
(iv) In Hospitals	14	14	85	55
Total of 4 (i)—(iv) inclusive ..	38	32	139	101
(v) Under Voluntary Supervision .....	..	..	6	5
Total of 4 (i)—(v) inclusive ..	38	32	145	106
<hr/>				
5. Number of defectives under Guardianship on 31st December, 1958, who were dealt with under the provisions of Section 8 or 9, Mental Deficiency Act, 1913 (Included in 4 (ii) ) .....	..	..	..	..
<hr/>				
6. Classification of defectives in the Community on 31/12/58 (according to need at that date)				
(a) Cases included in 4(i)—(iii) in need of hospital care and reported accordingly to the hospital authority :—				
(1) In urgent need of hospital care :—				
(i) "cot and chair" cases	1	..	..	..
(ii) ambulant low grade cases	1	1	..	..
(iii) medium grade cases .....	..	..	..	..
(iv) high grade cases .....	..	..	..	..
Total urgent cases	2	1	..	..

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938—continued.

	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
(2) Not in urgent need of hospital care :—				
(i) "cot and chair" cases .....	..	1	..	..
(ii) ambulant low grade cases	1	..	..	1
(iii) medium grade cases .....	..	..	2	1
(iv) high grade cases .....	..	..	..	..
Total non-urgent cases	1	1	2	2
Total of Urgent and Non-Urgent cases	3	2	2	2
(b) Of the cases included in items 4 (i), (ii) and (v), number considered suitable for :—				
(i) occupation centre	16	15	1	9
(ii) industrial centre .....	..	..	30	..
(iii) home training .....	..	..	..	..
Total of 6 (b)	16	15	31	9
(c) Of the cases included in 6 (b), number receiving training on 31/12/58 :—.....	..	..	..	..
(i) In occupation centre (including vol- untary centres)	11	10	1	9
(ii) In industrial centre .....	..	..	..	..
(iii) From a home teacher in groups .....	..	..	..	..
(iv) From a home teacher at home (not in groups) .....	..	..	..	..
Total of 6 (c)	11	10	1	9

Mental Defectives in Institutions on 31st December, 1958
(including Patients on Licence therefrom)

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital	65	63	128
General Hospital, South Shields	25	.....	25
Aycliffe Hospital, Heighington	3	1	4
Rampton Hospital, Retford	1	2	3
Royal Albert Hospital, Lancaster	2	1	3
Northgate & District Hospital, Morpeth	1	.....	1
Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley .....	.....	1	1
Whittington Hall Hospital, Chesterfield .....	.....	1	1
Leybourne Grange Colony, West Malling, Kent	1	.....	1
The Manor Hospital, Epsom	1	.....	1
	99	69	168

PART IV.—MISCELLANEOUS

Blind Persons

I am indebted to the Director of Welfare Services for the information which he supplied for this part of the report.

During the year the total number of Forms B.D.8 submitted was 51 and the number of persons certified as blind was 34.

Age Groups	On Certification	At Onset of Blindness
up to 9 yrs.	1	6
10 to 19 „	1	.....
20 to 29 „ .....	.....	.....
30 to 39 „ .....	.....	.....
40 to 49 „	2	2
50 to 59 „	3	2
60 to 69 „	5	4
70 to 79 „	13	11
80 and over	9	3
Not known .....	.....	6
Total	34	34

The total number on the Blind Register at the end of the year was 408.

Treatment**Follow up of Registered Blind Persons.**

	Causes of disability			
	Cata-ract	Glau-coma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(i) Number of cases registered during 1958 in respect of which para. 7 (c) of Form B.D.8 recommends—				
(a) No treatment	3	1	.....	14
(b) Treatment (Medical, surgical or optical)	5	4	.....	6
(c) Treatment inadvisable	1	.....	.....	.....
(ii) Number of cases at 1 (b) above which on follow up action have received treatment	3	4	.....	4

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Seven cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified during the year occurring in domiciliary confinements. No impairment of vision resulted.

Thirty-five other cases of “discharging eyes” were notified by midwives. Three of these cases were still under treatment at the end of the year, and there was no impairment of vision in the remainder of the cases.

Nurseries and Child Minders’ Regulations Act, 1948

One private nursery school was registered with the Authority during the year to receive up to a maximum of 24 children.

Home Accidents

During the ten years up to the end of 1958, 84 persons lost their lives as a result of home accidents in South Shields. The mortality due to road accidents in the same period was 87. In the following table, the age group distribution of home accident deaths is shown.

Home Accident Deaths. South Shields. 1949-1958

Year	0—1 years	2— 4	5— 14	15— 24	25— 34	35— 44	45— 54	55— 64	65— 74	75— 84	85+	Total
1949	5	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	2	..	11
1950	4	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	2	2	.....	11
1951	3	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2	.....	1	.....	7
1952	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	3	..	2	9
1953	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2	..	6
1954	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2	..	1	7
1955	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	6
1956	1	1	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	6
1957	2	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2	2	1	.....	8
1958	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2	6	2	13
Total	23	5	1	1	4	1	1	8	17	18	5	84

This table underlines the now accepted fact that the persons most at risk in the home are children under 5 and elderly persons over the age of 65 ; both categories account for 81% of the total deaths. Of the 28 deaths of children under 5, 21 were infants who were stated to have died from suffocation due to various causes such as choking due to vomiting, smothering by pillows and overlaying.

Thirty-five of the deaths were due to accidental falls and twenty-six of these victims were over the age of 65 ; twenty-one deaths followed burns and scalds and eight of these were children under 14, the remaining thirteen affecting persons of middle and old age in equal proportions.

The remainder were due to a variety of causes.

**National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47 and National Assistance
(Amendment) Act, 1951.**

Under the above acts provision is made for “securing the necessary care and attention for persons suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

Three cases were dealt with under this section and compulsorily removed to hospital—all living alone.

One, a spinster lady of 67 who died 5 days after admission to hospital. One, a man of 74, who died 3 days after admission to hospital, and an old lady of 89 who died 3 months after admission to hospital.

PART V.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

The combined system of drainage is used in the town with soil and surface water discharging directly to the River Tyne or the sea.

Complaints are received from time to time of obstructed or defective house drains and these have resulted in 329 visits by public health inspectors. 158 drains have been tested for defects and the entire or partial reconstructions of 120 drains have been supervised.

When applicable advantage is taken of the provisions of the South Shields Corporation Act, 1935, to obtain the speedy correction of faulty house drainage. During the year 113 notices were served under this Act.

Water Supply.

Water is supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company. The supply is constant and the water wholesome and satisfactory according to chemical and bacteriological reports.

In addition to samples taken by the Water Company, 109 samples were taken by public health inspectors from taps in different parts of the town. Two of these were unsatisfactory, but subsequent samples from the same sources proved quite pure.

One complaint was received during the year. This was, that following alteration to the water service pipe the taste of the water had changed. Bacteriological and chemicals tests proved satisfactory.

Results of Samples of the Company's Water

(a) BACTERIOLOGICAL (Coliform percentages) :—

	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Negative in 100 ml.</i>	<i>Positive in 100 ml.</i>
Wells and other sources	241	90.9	9.1
Reservoirs.....	107	91.6	8.4
Taps	126	95.2	4.8

(b) *Typical Analysis (Chemical) of Water Supply in 1958.*

	<i>Parts per Million.</i>
Total Solids	370
Suspended Solids	Nil.
Total Hardness	259
Permanent Hardness	71
Temporary Hardness	188
Calcium Oxide	882
Magnesium oxide	45
Sulphur Trioxide	77
Chloride	39
Free Chlorine	Trace
Nitrogen as Nitrates .....	.....
Dissolved Oxygen	9
Free Carbon Dioxide	6.4
Iron	Nil.
Manganese	Nil.
Fluorine	0.3 to 0.5

Colour 5 degrees Hazen pH 7.6.

Theoretical Constituents.

	<i>Parts per Million</i>
CaCO ₃	146
MgCO ₃	35
Na ₂ CO ₃	Nil.
CaSO ₄	Nil.
MgSO ₄	85
Na ₂ SO ₄	36
CaCl ₂	Nil.
MgCl ₂	Nil.
NaCl	64

Swimming Baths

Regular inspections are made by public health inspectors and samples of water taken for bacteriological examination. At the time samples are taken the Manager checks the water for chlorine content and acidity. During the year 148 samples were taken and 4 were reported unsatisfactory.

Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the town but 17 Seamen's Lodging Houses are registered under the Merchant Shipping Acts. They provide accommodation for sailors, mostly coloured, who occupy them for short periods whilst ashore. These houses are inspected regularly and 104 visits were made during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS CONTROL

Milk

Milk has probably been adulterated more often than any other important article of food. It is readily adulterated and quickly disposed of, and for this reason it receives special attention in food control. The majority of the samples taken for examination are taken informally, a small quantity being purchased from the vendor or taken from the dairy.

During the year, a total of 150 samples of milk were taken. Of these, 119 were informal, 26 formal and 5 "appeal to cow", samples. Those from 4 sources were found to be unsatisfactory but in each case this was considered to be owing to natural causes. The details were therefore referred to the County Milk Production Officer with a view to improving the quality of the milk produced.

Bacteriological Sampling of Milk

The following samples of heat treated milk were taken during 1958. 71 pasteurised of which 5 failed the methylene blue test. 49 tuberculin tested (pasteurised) of which 2 failed the methylene blue test. 30 sterilised, of which none failed the test.

All the pasteurised milks passed the phosphatase test indicating satisfactory heat treatment. The methylene blue test gives an indication of the keeping quality of the milk.

In addition 126 samples of tuberculin tested (farm bottled) milk were also taken and of these 34 failed the test. As this milk is bottled on the farms where it is produced the results were sent to the County Milk Production Officer.

Brucella abortus

All raw milk samples are tested for the presence of *Brucella abortus*. None were reported positive during the year although sampling was intensified from one source where the disease was suspected.

Tuberculosis in Milk

The greater part of the country is now included in eradication or attested areas under the bovine tuberculosis eradication plan. Those parts of Durham, Northumberland and North Yorkshire not already included became free testing areas during the year. When in a free testing area herd owners may submit to voluntary supervision and become eligible for a bonus. It may be anticipated that after 2 years of voluntary free testing an eradication area order will be made. In the meantime more of the milk coming into the town is from herds which have reached attested status.

107 samples were taken during the year for examination by animal inoculation. None were reported positive.

Ice Cream

Seventeen samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Analyst who certified that all satisfied the provisions of the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953; the minimum fat content required by the Order is 5%. The average fat content of these samples was 8.3%, the highest being 11.7% and the lowest 5.4%.

Fifty samples of ice cream and 25 ice-lollies were taken for bacteriological examination. All the lollies proved to be free from harmful bacteria and the ice cream was placed in the following provisional grade.

Provisional Grade	I	II	III	IV
No. of Samples	25	6	11	8
Percentage	50%	12%	22%	16%

Other Foods and Drugs

Fifty-six samples of other foods and drugs were submitted for analyses. Nine of these were informal samples of "potted meat" the meat contents of which varied between 47.5% and 90.0%. Although no official standard exists for this product the Public Analyst expressed the opinion that it should contain a minimum of 90% meat.

Warning letters were sent to the vendors of the 8 samples with less than 90% meat content.

One sample of cream fudge and one of chocolate covered peanuts were found to contain mould growths. In each case the remaining stock of these articles were surrendered when the results were made known.

Complaints

Complaints about articles of food purchased are frequently received. These are usually about foreign bodies in the food. During the year there were 24 complaints and legal proceedings were taken in respect of 3 of them. One was dismissed and a fine of £10 was imposed in each of the other two cases. Warnings were given as a result of the other complaints. Five complaints were also received about the dirty condition of bottles in which milk had been delivered. The dairies at which the bottles had been filled were all in other Council's areas and details were sent to these authorities. It was subsequently learned that warnings had been given in each case.

Meat Inspection at the Public Abattoir

All slaughtering of animals for sale for human consumption is done at the Public Abattoir. A public health inspector is always present during slaughtering hours and all meat produced there was inspected before release.

The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered at the Abattoir during the last 9 years.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Beasts ..	6597	8090	7662	6543	8071	5014	6250	6441	5008
Calves ..	8	782	212	15	443	447	476	373	319
Sheep ..	20151	19494	27792	27946	33506	22179	25545	28555	26054
Pigs	1137	2746	12790	15859	24681	14715	6723	6504	7844
Goats ....	..	33	8	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	27893	31145	48464	50363	66701	46355	38994	41873	39225

Food Rejected as Unfit

All unfit meat and offal is collected by a reputable firm under supervision for processing by heat treatment. Before leaving the Abattoir it is stained with bright green dye. All other food is incinerated by arrangement with the Cleansing Superintendent.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	4,337	671	319	26,054	7,844	..
Number inspected ..	4,337	671	319	26,054	7,844	..
<i>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis</i> Whole carcasses con- demned	2	9	41	31	16	..
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1721	179	2	313	683	..
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	39.7%	28.0%	13.5%	1.3%	8.9%	..
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> Whole carcasses con- demned	6	3	..	..	..	..
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	212	95	..	..	122	..
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.0%	14.6%	..	..	1.5%	..
<i>Cysticercosis</i> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	..	..	..	..	..
Carcases submitted to treatment by refriger- ation	11	..	..	..	..	..
Generalised and totally condemned ..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Parts and organs rejected for tuberculosis

	Cows	Cattle excluding cows	Pigs
Heart and Lungs	78	155	4
Liver	16	58	.....
Head and tongue	46	88	118
Skirt	9	24	.....
Spleen	7	19	.....
Stomach	12	36	1
Mesentery and intestines	16	40	1
Udders	4	.....	.....
Forequarters	5	9	.....
Hindquarters	2	13	.....

Animals affected in any organ or part with disease other than tuberculosis

	Cows	Cattle excluding cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Totals
Pericarditis.....	3	27	..	32	9	71
Mastitis	14	..	..	..	..	14
Telangiectasis	18	7	..	..	..	25
Cirrhosis	99	1,121	..	7	11	1,238
Inad. bleeding	1	..	..	..	1	2
Parasitic	6	159	..	178	189	532
Actinobacillosis }	1	15	..	..	..	16
Actinomycosis }	7	140	..	163	32	342
Pleurisy	4	2	..	..	..	6
Johnes Disease .....	..	2	..	..	1	3
Septicaemia	20	72	..	48	16	156
Peritonitis	20	245	..	31	26	322
Local Inflammatory conditions	1	6	..	91	4	101
Pneumonia .....	..	2	..	1	1	4
Decomposition .....	..	1	..	..	..	1
Melanosis	2	..	..	3	..	5
Nephritis .....	..	11	..	..	..	11
C. Bovis	4	2	..	2	42	50
Oedema & Emaciation	2	1	..	1	..	4
Tumours	2	11	..	3	10	26
Bruising	1	12	..	11	8	32
Traumatism	1	4	..	2	..	7
Hydro-Nephrosis .....	..	..	1	1	1	3
Pyæmia	1	..	..	..	..	1
Fever .....	..	2	..	42	5	49
Arthritis .....	..	..	40	..	..	40
Immaturity	6	5	..	7	8	26
Other Conditions	212	1,847	41	623	364	3,087

Comparative table showing the percentage of animals found to be affected with tuberculosis during the past eight years

	Year	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs
Number of animals killed and inspected.	1951	7017	1073	782	1137
	1952	6455	1207	212	2746
	1953	5881	662	15	12790
	1954	6300	1771	443	15859
	1955	3941	1073	447	24681
	1956	4870	1380	476	14715
	1957	5716	725	373	6504
	1958	4337	671	319	7844
Whole carcasses rejected	1951	27	37	.....	5
	1952	24	66	.....	33
	1953	15	21	.....	14
	1954	26	25	.....	29
	1955	9	23	.....	8
	1956	8	22	.....	3
	1957	15	6	.....	2
	1958	6	3	.....	.....
Carcasses of which some organ or part was rejected	1951	307	253	.....	160
	1952	306	384	.....	569
	1953	312	152	.....	724
	1954	405	419	.....	785
	1955	330	317	3	621
	1956	294	215	.....	192
	1957	345	92	.....	131
	1958	212	95	.....	122
Percentage of animals affected with tuberculosis.	1951	4.76%	27.03%	.....	5.9%
	1952	5.11%	37.28%	.....	4.71%
	1953	5.56%	26.13%	.....	4.65%
	1954	7.84%	25.07%	.....	3.17%
	1955	8.6%	31.7%	0.7%	4.2%
	1956	6.27%	17.1%	.....	2.9%
	1957	6.3%	13.5%	.....	2.0%
	1958	5.0%	14.6%	.....	1.5%

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Total weight of meat (including offal) rejected for tuberculosis	9	2	14
Total weight of meat (including offal) rejected for other causes.....	16	17	29
Total meat rejected	25	19	43

Food inspected and rejected outside the abattoir

	lbs.
Pork	24
Beef	1,083
Sweets	252
Potatoes	4,224
Ham and Bacon	31
Poultry	37
Liver	60
Fish	45
Flour	140
Miscellaneous	87
Total	<u>5,983</u>

Tins, Packets, Jars, etc.

Milk	291
Beans	360
Fish	71
Jam and Syrup	30
Ham	3,266
Other Meat Products	6,164
Soups.....	310
Fruit	500
Peas	1,421
Tomatoes	224
Miscellaneous	226
Total	<u>12,863</u>

Total Food condemned—8 tons 8 cwts. 30 lbs.

Food Hygiene

Work in this important field continued during the year with a total of 1,742 visits to food premises. These resulted in 706 improvements.

An opportunity was taken to include an article on food hygiene in the local paper but the greatest impact is made by repeated visits and personal contact. It is regretted that staff shortage prevented more visits to the 1,119 food premises in the town.

The following list shows the number and types of food premises :—

Retail food shops :

General dealers and grocers	344
Wet fish	26
Fried fish	48
Butchers	121
Greengrocers	58
Sweets	102
Bakers and confectioners	56
Others (including summer season stalls)	69
Bakehouses	42
Canteens, cafes and restaurants	87
Public houses and clubs	108
Warehouses and food stores	15
Ice-cream manufacturers—hot mix	7
cold mix	2
Dairies	6
Others	28
Total	1,119

Registration under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Premises registered for manufacture of ice-cream	9
Premises registered for sale of ice-cream.....	313
Premises registered for preparation or manufactures of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food	103

Milk Distributors

There are 282 milk distributors holding licences as follows :—

Sterilised	281	Pasteurised.....	36
Tuberculin Tested		Tuberculin Tested	
(Pasteurised)	11	(Farm Bottled)	14

HOUSING

There were 36,124 inhabited houses in the County Borough at the end of 1958.

New Houses

524 new houses were completed during the year as follows :—

<i>Type.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Bungalows (2 B.R.)	Whiteleas	72
2 bedroomed Terrace	„	174
3 „ „	„	142
3 „ „ Semi-detached	„	60
Corner Type Flats (1.B.R.)	„	72
2 „ „ Terrace	Ravensworth Terrace	4

Fair Rents Information Bureau

The following statement by the Borough Treasurer summarises the work of the bureau during 1958 :—

Forms “ A ” sold to landlords.....	96
Forms “ G ” sold to tenants.....	275
Enquiries by landlords	110
Enquiries by tenants	539
Cases heard by Rent Tribunal	5
	<hr/>
	1,025
	<hr/>

Slum Clearance

The following clearance areas were represented during the year.

<i>Areas represented.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Persons.</i>	<i>Dwellings.</i>	<i>Families.</i>
High Shields No. 5	9/4/58	518	184	185
High Shields No. 6	9/6/58	246	87	92
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		764	271	277
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The following compulsory purchase orders were confirmed by Minister of Housing and Local Government without modification.

<i>Compulsory Purchase Order.</i>	<i>Date Confirmed.</i>	<i>Date represented as Clearance area.</i>
High Shields Nos. 1 & 2.....	25/2/58	5/3/57
High Shields No. 3	8/7/58	9/7/57

Public Inquiries

An inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government conducted an inquiry into, and inspected High Shields No. 3 area on 25th March. The one outstanding objection to confirmation of the order was not upheld but the Minister instructed well-maintained payments to be made for two properties.

High Shields No. 4 C.P.O. resulted in the greatest number of objections to any order made by the Council in the current programme. There were objections in respect of 65 properties. This was mainly owing to the fact that in the middle of the area there were a number of houses of more recent construction than the majority and, though unfit, these compared favourably with the older houses which were considered to be unhealthy dwellings more than 20 years ago. The order was eventually confirmed by the Minister in April, 1959, with only one minor modification and the instruction that well-maintained payments should be made for 18 houses.

There were no objections to High Shields No. 5 order and an inspection was made by the Minister's representative on 2nd December, 1958. 14 applications for well-maintained payments had been made but none were granted.

Individual Unfit Houses

In addition to houses in clearance areas 28 houses were reported to the Council as being unfit and not capable of being made fit at reasonable expense. This resulted in 8 closing orders being made and the acceptance by the Council of 18 undertakings not to relet for habitation after the tenants had been re-housed. The other 2 houses concerned were owned by the Council and the families were re-housed.

Overcrowding

Sixteen enquiries were received about overcrowding and 3 requests made by owners for the permitted numbers of their houses. 3 instances of overcrowding were verified.

Information for landlords and tenants.

Many enquiries are received in the Department regarding proposed dates of clearance of property. Many of these are from tenants of houses in clearance areas, some are from owners whose property is in need of repair and some from people who are considering buying houses or businesses in the area. We are glad to give as much information as we can to help the enquirer.

Certificates of Disrepair

Applications for certificates under the disrepair provisions of the Rent Act, 1957, continued at a high rate. The total number of applications requiring inspection of the houses concerned was 365.

These were dealt with as follows :—

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	268
Applications refused or withdrawn	10
Notice given of intention to issue certificate	258
Undertakings accepted by the Council	214
Certificates of disrepair issued	39
Applications for cancellation	23

Cancellation granted :—

without objection from tenant	21
after objection from tenant	1
Cancellation refused	1

Applications for certificates relating to compliance with undertakings :—

from landlords	50
from tenants	45

Two applications were withdrawn after the Council had given notice of intention to issue, but before the issue of a certificate of disrepair, and in 3 instances works were completed in this period.

One certificate of disrepair was the subject of an appeal to the County Court by the landlord. The Court cancelled the certificate because the tenant was unable to prove service of form ' G '.

Improvement Grants

Thirteen applications were considered during the year. In addition to the improvements proposed by the applicants further improvements or repairs were required for 9 of the houses to bring them up to the standard required.

Examination of Plans

Each month, plans submitted for byelaw and planning approval are examined to ensure that the premises will comply with the various acts and orders to which they will be subject after erection.

Many amendments can be made in the planning stage thus saving alterations and additions later.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Those provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, not already in force became operative on 1st June, 1958. These mainly concern industrial premises and relate to dark smoke and grit and dust emissions. The Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958, and the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) (Vessels) Regulations, 1958, became effective on the same date. These define the periods for which dark smoke emissions are permissible without creating an offence. The latter regulations deal with shipping for which more liberal permitted periods are provided and these are administered by the Tyne Port Health Authority.

The Council have now adopted the byelaw under Section 24 of the Act which ensures that in new buildings only heating and cooking appliances capable of burning smokeless fuels are installed. This became operative on 1st November, 1958.

During the year four notifications of new furnace installations were received and in each case the Council were asked to approve the plans and specifications. Approval of 4 chimney heights was also given.

INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION, 1958

A. Estimation of Sulphur Content

MONTH	Estimated Sulphur Index (mgms.) sulphur trioxide per day collected by 100 square cms. lead peroxide)	WIND (DIRECTION AT 9 A.M. G.M.T.)										
		Harton Junior School	Stanhope Road School	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm
January	0.53	2.73	2	..	..	1	3	8	11	5	..	..
February	2.37	2.88	1	2	..	3	3	4	9	6	..	..
March	1.80	1.62	..	3	5	10	1	1	7	4	..	..
April	1.77	1.22	4	3	4	2	..	7	4	6	..	..
May	1.28	1.18	..	4	3	7	1	6	3	7	..	..
June	1.12	0.98	3	6	4	9	2	4	1	1	..	..
July	1.11	1.67	2	6	4	7	..	2	4	6	..	..
August	0.96	0.73	1	1	1	8	3	7	7	3	..	..
September	0.89	0.81	5	3	1	6	6	6	1	2	..	..
October	2.24	1.85	..	..	..	2	3	9	9	8	..	..
November	2.97	2.54	2	..	..	2	..	12	8	6	..	..
December	2.34	2.41	1	3	2	1	1	11	6	6	..	..
TOTALS.												
Average 1958.	1.62	1.72	21	32	24	58	23	77	70	60	..	..
" 1957.	1.72	1.28	32	43	17	40	38	67	84	44	..	..
" 1956.	1.89	1.77	39	29	24	39	28	69	83	54	1	1
" 1955.	1.42	1.52	45	34	32	35	51	75	53	39	1	1

INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION, 1958

B—DEPOSIT GAUGE

Month	HARTON JUNIOR SCHOOL				STANHOPE ROAD SCHOOL			
	Rain-fall in ins.	Monthly Deposit in tons per square mile			Rain-fall in ins.	Monthly Deposit in tons per square mile		
		Total soluble matter	Total in- soluble matter	Total Solids		Total in- soluble matter	Total in- soluble matter	Total Solids
January	1.39	7.57	10.37	17.94	1.42	7.17	9.66	14.83
February ..	3.14	16.68	6.40	23.08	2.78	8.64	5.68	14.32
March	2.11	10.67	10.64	21.34	2.20	7.99	22.68	30.67
April	1.59	10.34	3.53	13.57	1.21	5.17	4.32	9.49
May	2.73	6.70	34.15	40.85	2.36	6.43	31.52	37.95
June	2.27	4.70	2.90	7.60	2.00	3.37	4.45	7.82
July	3.45	6.70	5.10	11.80	3.31	5.99	7.41	13.40
August	2.88	4.87	3.54	8.41	3.04	4.35	6.26	10.81
September ..	1.80	6.07	3.23	9.30	1.73	5.85	7.28	13.13
October	0.87	5.10	3.57	8.67	1.00	5.30	4.22	9.52
November ..	0.82	5.97	4.10	10.07	0.63	4.90	6.63	11.53
December ..	2.68	13.17	2.00	15.17	2.47	8.94	7.68	16.62
Average 1958	2.86	8.21	7.96	15.67	2.01	6.17	9.82	15.99
„ 1957	1.71	6.24	5.63	11.86	1.66	6.51	6.97	13.47
„ 1956	1.90	8.08	6.33	14.42	1.82	7.31	8.14	15.44
„ 1955	1.50	8.72	5.51	14.23	14.23	6.67	6.64	13.31

Factories

During the year, 173 visits were paid to factories under the 1937 Factories Act and Regulations.

Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health :

Premises (1)	No. on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	51	12	2	...
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	336	121	24	...
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (*excluding outworkers' premises)	12	40	7	...
Total.....	399	173	33	...

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were Instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	11	9	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S.2)	2	2	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S.3).....	...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	3	2	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6).....	...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) .....	...	...	...	...	...
(a) insufficient	7	6	...	2	...
(b) unsuitable or defective	12	12	...	3	...
(c) not separate for sexes	2	1	...	...	...
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	3	2	...	...	...
Total	40	34	...	5	...

*Electrical Stations (Section 103 (1), Institutions (Section 104) and Sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Section 107 and 108).

Outworkers

Lists received from employers :—

	<i>Lists.</i>	<i>Outworkers.</i>
Making, etc., of wearing apparel.....	2	2
Addresses of outworkers received from other Councils—	2	
Inspections of outworkers premises—	4.	

There were no instances of work being done in unhealthy or infected premises.

Rodent Control

During the year 653 complaints were received of rodent infestations and 90 were discovered during the course of inspections for other purposes.

The normal treatment necessitates 3 or 4 visits and the total number for this purpose was 3,544.

Sewer baiting was carried out twice during the year. For this purpose a total of 1,370 baiting points were used and 750 takes were recorded.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S STAFF DURING 1958

Complaints received : 859

(A) Inspections and Investigations

HOUSES INSPECTED FOR HOUSING DEFECTS :

(a) Under Public Health Acts	941
(b) Under Housing Acts	673
(c) Improvement Grants	13
(d) Certificates of Disrepair	363

HOUSES RE-INSPECTED :

(a) Under Public Health Acts.....	1,643
(b) Under Housing Acts	156
(c) Improvement Grants	40
(d) Certificates of Disrepair	38
Boarding houses and sub-let houses.....	11
Seamen's lodging houses	104
Tents, vans and sheds	1
Verminous or dirty premises	257
Other nuisances	408

DRAINAGE :

Visits	329
Works supervised	120
Tests applied	158

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

Cases investigated	377
Visits of surveillance	220
Visits re pathological specimens, etc.	704
Premises disinfected	85

OVERCROWDING :

Houses inspected	16
Instances detected	3

FACTORIES :

Power	121
Non-power	12
Building and Engineering works	40
Lists of outworkers examined	2
Outworkers premises	4
Work places	13
Offensive trades	60
Places of public entertainment	25
Pet shops	25
Shops (under shops Acts)	3

FOOD PREMISES :

Ice-Cream manufacturing	5
Ice-cream sales	74
Fried fish shops	63
Other registered premises	163
Dairies	18
Milkshops	42
Licensed premises	118
Bakehouses	58
Cafes, restaurants and snack bars	49
School canteens	26
Factory and other canteens	13
Stalls, mobile shops and other vehicles	49
Others	1,064

ABATTOIR :

Half day duties	599
Other visits	193
Inspections of unsound food	262
Schools	16
Rag flock premises	1
Merchandise Marks Act	28
Fertilisers and Feeding stuffs	4
Samples taken	7
Swimming baths	63
Samples taken :—	
Bacteriological	148
Chemical	2

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION :

Inspection of fuel burning appliances	104
---	-----

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS :

Half-hour	64
Casual	49

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLES TAKEN :

MILK :	
Chemical	150
Bacteriological	282
Biological	107

ICE-CREAM :

Chemical	17
Bacteriological	75

WATER SUPPLY :

Bacteriological	109
Chemical	1
Other foods and drugs	56

RODENT CONTROL :

Premises inspected on complaint :	
Dwellings	515
Business premises	138
Premises inspected other than on complaint :	
Dwellings	69
Business premises	21
Number of visits for treatment.....	3,544
Other miscellaneous visits or inspections	990
Interviews at office	716
Local Land Charges Act	857
Total	17,727

(B) Notices Served

The following notices were served during the year :—.....

Public Health Act, 1936 :—

Intimation Notices	571
Statutory Notices	90
South Shields Corporation Act, 1935, Sect. 63	113
Pet Animals Act, 1951	2
Factories Act, 1937	33
Foods and Drugs Act, 1955	197
	1,006

(C) Food and Drugs Act, 1955**Improvements made in Food Premises**

Sinks or washhand basins provided	85
Cold water supply provided	48
Hot water supply provided	92
Clothes lockers provided	28
First aid equipment provided	35
Protective screens provided for displayed food	46
Lighting improved	9
Ventilation provided or improved	7
“ Now Wash Your Hands ” notices provided	85
Soap, towels, nailbrushes provided	52
Premises cleaned or decorated	88
Miscellaneous	131
	706

(D) Repairs and Improvements effected under the Public Health and Housing Acts

Floors relaid or repaired	45
Walls and ceilings repaired	113
Dampness of walls remedied	110
Roofs repaired	147
Spouts repaired or renewed	74
Windows repaired or made to open	40
Rooms cleansed or redecorated.....	13
Verminous houses disinfected	97
Yards drained, relaid or repaired	23
Waterclosets repaired	79
Waterclosets basins or cisterns renewed	51
Drains cleared of obstruction	136
Drains relaid or repaired	45
Water pipes repaired or renewed	62
Miscellaneous improvements made and nuisances abated	198
	<hr/>
	1,233
	<hr/>

INSPECTION UNDER THE SHOPS ACT

Number of Shops

Number of shops on the Register on 31st December, 1958, coming within the jurisdiction of the Shops Act, 1950, and the various Orders made thereunder by the Town Council was 1,587.

This figure includes demolition and new buildings.

Fifty-eight of these shops are licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquor to be consumed off the premises, ; 27 being concerned only with the sale of intoxicating liquor and 31 being operated in conjunction with other general trades.

The number of premises on the register licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquors to be consumed on and off the premises is :—

Fully licensed	81
Ales only	14
	<hr/>
Total	95
	<hr/> <hr/>

There are 10 cinemas in which Young Persons (those under 18 years of age) are employed.

The following premises are on the register in connection with employment of Young Persons under the Shops Act, 1950 :—

Fun fairs 3 ; laundry, dyeing and cleaning works (including despatching and receiving goods premises) 29 ; boot and shoe repairing 42 (including despatching and receiving premises).

The number of visits paid to shop premises where the Shops Act, 1950, applies was as follows :—

Weekdays	1,789
Sundays	149
	<hr/>
Total	1,938
Interviews and appointments	20
Complaints received and investigated	27

Infringement of the Shops Act, 1950

Not exhibiting Assistants Weekly Half Holiday Notice.....	39
Not exhibiting notices stating seats are provided for female assistants	37
Not exhibiting notices stating purposes for which a shop is open on the Early Closing day for that shop.....	15
Not keeping in the prescribed form a record of the hours of work or employment of a Young Person or exhibiting a notice specifying the daily hours to be worked and intervals to be allowed for rest and meals	20
Not exhibiting an abstract of the provisions of the Shops Act, a notice setting forth the number of hours that may be worked by Young Persons and intervals for rest and meals which are allowed them and such other particulars prescribed.....	14
Not providing suitable and sufficient sanitary accom- modation	5
Not providing suitable and sufficient heating arrange- ments	6
Not providing suitable washing arrangements.....	15
Failing to close a shop on a half day for the serving of customers	1

Shops (Sunday Trading) Act, 1950—Sections 47-49

Not exhibiting on the Exterior and on the Interior of the shop notices stating the purposes for which and the hours during which the shop is open on Sunday for the serving of customers.....	14
Not keeping in the prescribed form a record of the names of and the hours worked by persons employed about the business of a shop which is open for the serving of customers on Sunday and of the respective days of the week these persons receive compensatory holidays for Sunday employment.....	3
Trading in articles the sale of which is prohibited on Sundays	14

Failing to close their premises for the serving of customers and serving customers after the general closing hours for their respective shops as provided for by the Shops Act, 1950, and the local Acts and Orders made thereunder	1
The infringements under the Shops Act, 1950, and the local Orders made thereunder were first offences and the persons in default were cautioned and instructed by the Inspector by written intimation.....	43
Verbally	33
The following were reported to the Health Committee and cautioned by the Town Clerk on the Committee's instruction :—	
Trading in prohibited articles on a Sunday.....	2
Circulars instructing shopkeepers in the requirements of the Shops Act were issued where required including an extract of the Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953.....	32

The Acts and Orders which come under the supervision of the Shops Inspector :—

- (1) Shops Act, 1950.
- (2) Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953.
- (3) The Hairdressers Weekly Half Holiday Order, 1913.
- (4) The South Shields Butchers Half Holiday Order, 1915.
- (5) The South Shields Pork Butchers Closing Order, 1921.
- (6) The South Shields Butchers Closing Order, 1920.
- (7) The South Shields Hairdressers Closing Order, 1922.
- (8) The South Shields Drapers, etc., Weekly Half Holiday Order, 1925.
- (9) The South Shields Fish Dealers Weekly Half Holiday Order, 1925.
- (10) South Shields Holiday Resort Order, 1912.

The Drapers, etc., Orders apply to the trade or business of Drapers, Milliners, Clothiers, Mercers or Outfitters.

None of the contraventions reported under the Shops Act were offences of a deliberate nature, but were due more or less to ignorance of the various provisions of the Act. Little difficulty was experienced in having them rectified except in cases of provision of washing facilities where technical difficulties were experienced. However, in conjunction with assistance of Public Health Inspectors these technicalities were overcome.

The standard of cleanliness continues to improve with the building of new shops and the re-construction of older types, plus the demolition of quite a number of shops in the older parts of the town.

With the large volume of dwellings now completed on the White-leas Estate an increase is noticeable in the numbers of mobile shops in the area. Whilst these are not shops for the purposes of the Shops Act they do satisfy a need at present especially for the older people in the Millais Gardens Area. However with the completion of the proposed building of shops in this area a number of complaints can be expected from the new tenants of these shops against the continued operation of the mobile shops.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.

The year 1958 has again shown that the above regulations appear to be having the desired effect. No accidents were reported due to faulty appliances, which would appear to show that the object of the regulations has been attained.

All new heating appliances are checked and in no case was it necessary to refer to the makers. In some cases the larger stores have the appliances checked by their own staff to ensure compliance with this Act before placing such appliances on sale.
